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14 November 1984

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OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIES OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 38, Oct 84 pp 48-50

[Article by Ali M. El Agraa]

[Text]

IF The Arab League consists of 21 independent nations. The geographical area covered by the group includes the whole of North Africa, a large part of the Middle East, plus Somalia and Djibouti.

The total population of the Arab League states was about 53 million in 1930-31. It grew to about 160 million in 1979 and reached 170 million by mid-1981. Therefore, the average rate of population growth has been about 2½ per cent per annum.

Between 1970-81 the smallest growth rate was 2.3 per cent; Lebanon records a growth rate of 0.6 per cent but this is not a true figure given the political condition of Lebanon during that period. Allowing for the fact that the higher growth rates for Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are due to their attractiveness to people mainly from other Arab countries, one could argue that the average rate of population growth must be more than 3 per cent per year. The World Bank's (1983) projections for 1981-2000 more, apart from Mauritania (with 24 per cent), Somalia (31 per cent), Sudan (26 per cent), North Yemen (11 per cent), and South Yemen (37 per cent). Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and the UAE have proportions in excess of 70 per cent. The point that are consistent with the adjusted growth rate of over 3 per cent.

Rapid population growth has been accompanied by urbanisation. All Arab League countries have a percentage of

urban to total population of 40 per cent or deserves particular mention is that the oil-producing members of the Arab League have populations which, on the whole, occupy urban areas.

GNP and inflation

Apart from Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, per capita income is very low indeed. Five countries have per capita incomes of about or much less than 5 per cent that of the United States, and another three have per capita incomes of about or much less than 10 per cent that of the US. Algeria (about 18 per cent) occupies a middle ground.

It should also be added that although Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have some of the highest per capita incomes in the world, they can by no means be classified as advanced economies since they lack a number of the features which are necessary for such a classification: infrastructure is still lacking; domestic labour is basically unskilled; the economy is unbalanced.

The average annual rates of inflation in the Arab League are also high when compared with those of Japan, the US and, more recently, the UK. For 1970-82, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia had single, but high, rates; the remaining nations had rates varying between 11 per cent and 16 per cent. Saudi Arabia had a rate of 22.5 per cent. Such high rates of inflation have serious repercussions for the development of the area.

PER CAPITA GNP AND ANNUAL INFLATION RATES

	US\$	GNP per capita	Average Annual	
		Average Annual Growth (%)	Rate of Inflation (%)	
	1982	1960-82	1960-1970	1970-1982
Algeria	2350	3.2	2.7	13.9
Bahrain—N/A	..	..	..	..
Djibouti—N/A	..	..	..	..
Egypt	690	3.6	2.6	11.9
Iraq	N/A	N/A	1.7	..
Jordan	1690	6.9	..	9.6
Kuwait	19870	-0.1	..	15.6
Lebanon	N/A	N/A	1.4	N/A
Libya	8510	4.1	5.2	16.0
Mauritania	470	1.4	2.1	8.7
Morocco	870	2.6	2.0	8.3
Oman	6090	7.4	..	..
Qatar—N/A	14419 ^a	32.7 ^b	..	..
Saudi Arabia	16000	7.5	..	22.5
Somalia	290	-0.1	4.5	12.6
Sudan	440	-0.4	3.9	15.2
Syrian Arab Rep.	1680	4.0	2.6	12.2
Tunisia	1390	4.7	3.6	8.7
United Arab Emirates	23770	-0.7	..	..
Yemen Arab Rep.	500	5.1	..	15.0
Yemen PDR	470	6.4	..	..
Japan	10080	6.1	5.1	6.9
UK	9660	2.0	4.1	14.2
US	13160	2.2	2.9	7.3

Notes: a = 1979; b = 1970-1979

Sources: World Bank's World Development Report 1983

Structure and growth of production

In 1982 agriculture played a significant role in the economies of Egypt (20 per cent), Mauritania (29 per cent), Sudan (36 per cent), and North Yemen (26 per cent). Manufacturing accounted for 27 per cent in Egypt, 14 per cent in Jordan, 18 per cent in Morocco and 13 per cent in Tunisia. Hence the major contribution to GNP comes from the services sector and mining and construction — the term "industry" is misleading since it comprises mainly mining and construction. As the noted economist Yousef Sayigh states: "After 50 years of change and a strong post-war drive for industrialisation, the contribution (of manufacturing) is still only 7.6 per cent of GDP for the Arab region as a whole, but 16.3 per cent if oil revenues are excluded from GDP."

This is in sharp contrast with countries like Japan, the UK and the US where industry "proper" accounts for about one third and the large services sector is highly

sophisticated.

When one considers certain components of GDP one is immediately struck with the fact that apart from Saudi Arabia (with investment growing at about 36 per cent) and North Yemen (about 22 per cent) all the nations of the Arab League have investment growth rates of below 20 per cent, with Mauritania and Sudan in single figures.

One should not attempt to compare these figures with those for advanced nations, since it is well established that countries at a low level of development require a large percentage growth rate of investment. What is even more striking is the high combined growth rates for public and private consumption. Consumption continues to grow at a faster rate than investment.

Another sector that warrants particular mention is energy. In countries like Kuwait oil contributed about 70 per cent of GDP in 1980. In other words, the Gulf states with their very high per capita

STRUCTURE OF PRODUCTION

	GDP		Distribution of GNP (%)							
	(millions of US \$)		Agriculture		Industry		Manufacturing ^a		Services	
	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982
Algeria	2740	44930	16	6	35	55	8	10	49	39
Bahrain N/A	..	354 ^d	..	1.1 ^d	..	30.5 ^d	..	42.2 ^d	..	26 ^d
Djibouti N/A	..	166 ^e	..	3.6 ^e	..	10.8 ^{**}	..	7.8 ^e	..	77.8 ^d
Egypt	3880	26400	30	20	24	34	20	27	46	46
Iraq	1580	..	17	..	51	..	10	..	32	..
Jordan	..	3500	..	7	..	29	..	14	..	64
Kuwait	..	20600	..	1	..	61	..	7	..	38
Lebanon	830	..	11	..	20	..	13	..	69	..
Libya	310	28380	..	2	..	68	..	3	..	30
Mauritania	90	640	44	29	21	25	3	8	35	46
Morocco	2040	14780 ^b	23	14 ^b	27	34 ^b	16	18 ^b	50	52 ^b
Oman	50	7110	74	..	8	..	1	..	18	..
Saudi Arabia	..	153580	..	1	..	77	..	4	..	22
Somalia	180	..	71	..	8	..	3	..	21	..
Sudan	1180	9290	..	36	..	14	..	7	..	50
Syrian Arab Rep.	890	15240	..	19	..	31	..	..	..	50
Tunisia	770 ^c	7090	24 ^c	15	18 ^c	36	8 ^c	13	58 ^c	49
United Arab Emirates	..	29870	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen Arab Rep.	..	3210	..	26	..	17	..	7	..	56
Yemen PDR	..	630	..	12	..	27	..	..	..	61
China and India	36160	205580	48.5	35	26.5	33.5	..	..	25	31.5
Japan	44000	1061920	13	4	45	42	34	30 ^b	42	54
UK	71440	473220	3	2	43	33	32	19	54	65
US	505300	3009600	4	3	38	33	29	22	58	64

Notes: (a) Although manufacturing is part of industry, it is shown separately due to its importance.

(b) Figures are for 1980; (c) Figures are for 1960; (d) Figures are for 1977;

(e) Figures are for 1974;

(**) Construction only; .. = not available.

Sources: World Bank's World Development Report 1983; Sayigh (1982); and Kubursi (1980)

incomes depend to a large extent on oil production.

Education and labour

One of the most important factors for the potential development of an economy is its labour force and its education. Twelve member nations fell short of the desired 100 per cent enrolment ratio at the primary education level; some — Mauritania, Somalia, North Yemen — did not reach half that level.

At the secondary school and higher education levels, the enrolment ratios leave a lot to be desired: only seven countries exceed the 50 per cent mark in secondary education and only two nations record percentages of 20 or over in higher education.

Adult literacy rates are also very low, with only six countries recording a percentage of 50 or more.

As for the labour force, it seemed to be concentrated in agriculture and services. Low productivity of the agricultural labour is evident from the fact that it was not contributing to GDP to the same proportion as there were people employed in agriculture.

Finally, the distribution of the labour force and the educational enrolment ratios taken together point clearly towards a drastic shortage of skilled and semi-skilled labour.

Land use

Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Sudan are very large countries while Bahrain, Djibouti, Kuwait, Lebanon and Qatar are very small: however, these absolute sizes do not mean very much given the extent of desert in the larger countries of the Arab League. What is of particular interest is the proportion of arable and irrigated land as a percentage of all land.

LABOUR FORCE

	Percentage of Population of Working Age (15-64 years)		Percentage of Labour Force in						Average Annual Growth of Labour Force (%)		
			Agriculture		Industry		Services				
	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1970-1980	1980-1982	1982-2000
Algeria	52	49	67	25	12	25	21	50	0.5	3.5	4.8
Bahrain N/A	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Djibouti N/A	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egypt	55	57	58	50	12	30	30	20	2.2	2.5	2.4
Iraq	51	51	53	42	18	26	29	32	2.9	2.9	3.9
Jordan	52	51	44	20	26	20	30	60	2.8	2.5	4.4
Kuwait	63	52	1	..	34	34	65	64	7.0	4.8	3.4
Lebanon	53	56	38	11	23	27	39	62	2.1	1.1	2.2
Libya	53	51	53	19	17	28	30	53	3.6	3.6	4.4
Mauritania	53	51	91	69	3	8	6	23	1.9	2.0	2.4
Morocco	53	51	62	52	14	21	24	27	1.5	2.8	3.5
Oman	54	52	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Qatar N/A	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saudi Arabia	54	52	71	61	10	14	19	25	3.3	4.7	3.7
Somalia	54	54	88	82	4	8	8	10	2.1	2.9	2.0
Sudan	53	53	86	78	6	10	8	12	2.1	2.8	3.0
Syrian Arab Rep.	52	49	54	33	19	31	27	36	2.1	3.3	4.4
Tunisia	52	56	56	35	18	32	26	33	0.7	3.1	3.1
United Arab Emirates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen Arab Rep.	54	52	83	75	7	11	10	14	1.6	2.0	3.4
Yemen PDR	52	52	70	45	15	15	15	40	1.7	1.7	3.6
China and India	55	60 ^w	..	70	..	18	..	14 ^w	1.7 ^w	1.95	1.85
Japan	64	68	33	12	30	39	37	49	1.9	1.3	0.7
UK	65	64	4	2	48	42	48	56	0.6	0.4	0.2
US	60	66	7	2	36	32	57	66	1.8	1.7	0.9
USSR	63	66	42	14	29	45	29	41	0.7	1.2	0.6

Notes: w = weighted average; .. = not available

Source: World Bank's World Development Report 1983

Eight countries have a proportion of arable to total land of 3 per cent or less. Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia have a proportion of nearly one third, but these are small countries, hence their agricultural potential is limited: Sudan's 5 per cent is equivalent to about half the size of the whole of Morocco.

Of particular significance is the ratio of irrigated land as a percentage of arable land. Only 14 per cent of Sudan's arable land is irrigated while all of Egypt's is. Eight countries have a proportion of less than 10 per cent.

For the Arab League as a whole, a population of just over 170 million has to be supported by agricultural production from about half a million square

kilometres. Moreover, only Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and North Yemen were more than self-sufficient in food production in 1979-81.

This brief overview of the economies of the Arab League reveals that the area as a whole is extremely underdeveloped and even the countries with very high per capita incomes lack many of the essential features of an advanced economy. The rich countries depend almost entirely on oil revenues and the countries with semi-skilled labour (and some skilled) and agricultural potential are not at present oil producers. Finally, it is also the case that eleven nations are not self-sufficient in food production. These features should be borne in mind when considering the subsequent articles in this series.

ARMENIAN DAILY: TURKEY CRITICIZES U.S. GENOCIDE DECISION

GF240514 Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 1 Oct 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The Armenian Issue, Turkey, and the United States"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress decision to declare 24 April a day to commemorate the Armenian genocide really surprised the Turkish Government.

Moreover, Turkey found itself in the position of being stabbed in the back by the United States, which always watches Turkey's "bold" steps with "closed eyes," fully allocates to it financial aid that had been promised to other countries, and always encourages it. This was really unexpected and intolerable for the Turkish leaders.

Turkey countered fiercely with an arrogance that has become customary for it--the same arrogance that impelled it one day to massacre 1.5 million Armenians, another day to occupy nearly half of Cyprus, and every few days to violate the space and waters of its NATO ally Greece.

The Turkish ministers and media made statements which criticized and threatened the U.S. Government. They threatened and warned that "American and Turkish relations might irrevocably deteriorate" and that "the Americans are contributing to international terrorism."

The fierce wave of enrage passed and a few days ago a Turkish minister proudly boasted before the parliament and said: "We will retaliate in the fiercest way if Turkey's dignity is even slightly wounded" while at the same time announcing that "parliamentary debate on this issue is not necessary" because "positive signs have already been given by the United States."

The U.S. decision which enraged and troubled the Turkish leaders was undoubtedly welcomed with satisfaction by each Armenian and their children who have survived the genocide and declared their struggle for the Armenian ancestral lands and just rights. However, we hope that this satisfaction will not be disturbed. In the recent years Armenians have witnessed on many occasions pro-Armenian statements by Washington's leaders which dealt with the question of recognizing the historic fact of the genocide and establishing the justness of Armenian rights but which, after a brief time, were contradicted. Could it be that the remark of the Turkish minister on "the positive signs given by Washington" is a "declaration" of such a change?

It is necessary to indisputably and clearly repeat one fact: The Armenian issue, the crime perpetrated against the Armenian people, and the continuing injustice are historic facts and the struggle for their just compensation is not affected by external factors. The struggle continues and will continue until the day the genocide is finally acknowledged by Turkey, the United States, and all other countries, and until the children of the Armenian people restore their ancestral lands and rights.

CSO: 4605/25

ARMENIAN PAPER URGES FRANCE TO RESIST TURKEY

GF210713 Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 15 Sep 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Do You Understand?"]

[Excerpts] The title of this editorial and the question it asks first appeared in the Turkish press and has now found its place in this issue of our newspaper.

It is directed toward the visit of Etienne Manakh, special envoy of French President Mitterrand, to Turkey last July to improve French-Turkish governmental relations.

The author of the question put forth in the title is one of the editors of the HURRIYET daily, Hasan Pulus, who was enraged by the statement made by Manakh in Turkey when he said: "I have not come here to kneel."

The question is put to the French Government and public opinion, who through President Mitterrand, Ministers Defferre and Hernu, State Secretary Franceschi, and prominent intellectuals, have recognized the historic fact of the Armenian genocide but without directly holding the Turkish Government responsible for it.

There is nothing remarkable in all this. France wants to satisfy its conscience and make statements in favor of the Armenian cause as well as carry out its moral duty toward the Armenian people. Meanwhile, Turkey is using every means and opportunity to stop the French officials from adopting such stances by reminding them of their state interests.

The remarkable thing is the core of the question mentioned by the title, which is inspired by the traditional arrogance of the Turkish Government. A more remarkable thing is the traditional two-faced diplomacy of France which has resulted in the recent arrogance of the Turkish press.

Manakh's visit to Turkey opened an entire document in this regard. This French personality, who has been a university lecturer in Turkey, was appointed a special envoy by President Mitterrand and from the beginning of his visit to Turkey he based his mission on gaining the approval of the Ankara leaders. This opportunist approach was revealed when Manakh not only

queried the historic fact of the Armenian genocide and contradicted the official statements made by Francois Mitterrand, but also condemned the stances of the French officials that he said wound the anti-Armenian feelings of the Turkish Government, went beyond the limits of the diplomatic mission assigned to him and demanded the reconsideration of the declared French government stance on the Armenian issue.

The Turkish Government and the press instructed by it exploited the opportunity to the maximum. France was accused of encouraging so-called Armenian terrorism. The statements by President Mitterrand, which have stressed the necessity of paying attention to the just basis of Armenian demands and correcting the injustice carried out against the Armenian people, were considered statements that gave the green light for the assassination of Turkish diplomats. Even Manakh's patience and his efforts to please ran out when the Turkish press began to demand that the French Government "kneel and atone for its sins" for each drop of blood of the assassinated Turks in France.

The editor of HURRIYET simply became the spokesman of the Turkish arrogance, and without mincing words reminded Manakh and France of the incidents of Lausanne. Why should the Turkish press repress its arrogance when Turkey, which came to its knees in Sevres [during the Sevres treaty], exploited the same two-faced policy of the superpowers to the maximum and in Lausanne demand that the representatives of the big countries of those days kneel before Turkey.

The Turkish Government has every right [to ask for this apology] because France and other big countries without exception are in no condition to understand the lessons of history.

As long as the policy to please Turkey exists, the Ankara leaders will not allow France or the others to subject the steps taken by the Turkish Government to moral condemnation, whether they concern the Armenian massacre, the solution of the Kurdish issue, the usurpation of Cyprus, or the fascist policy of the Turkish rulers.

Had the Turkish Government not disturbed Mitterrand's accounts and not raised a propagandist uproar over Manakh's visit, France was hoping to and would have been able to implement its policy of giving moral satisfaction to the Armenians from one side and squeezing Turkey's hand from the other side as a NATO ally.

The demanding Armenians should make every effort so that France abandons its two-faced policy. The French press, intellectuals, and the Socialist Party of Mitterrand understand well that Turkish arrogance only understands the language of power and demands.

A two-faced policy--as is the case with the Armenian genocide--will simply encourage the arrogant Turks to give lessons to the world and ask questions such as "do you understand?".

CSO: 4605/26

PAPER COMMENTS ON PROBLEMS OF ARMENIAN SCHOOLS IN IRAN

GF161514 Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 23 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial: "The Iranian-Armenian Schools"]

[Excerpts] Our colony in Iran is one of our most important emmigration centers, and is totally different from our other colonies. It has old and deep historic roots in various districts and cities of the country and in some places even forms a native element, particularly in Azerbaijan and (Barsgahayk). Their Salmasd, Khoy, Maku, Payadagaran, and other boroughs used to form the border districts of historic Armenia and after the downfall of the Armenian state went under Persian domination. It is a genuine Armenian community which over centuries, despite the cold and hot political and governmental current, has been able to preserve its national identity and contributed to the national, cultural, and economic development of the motherland and the newly formed Armenian diaspora communities. In a word, the Iranian-Armenian community is an active and powerful community. The crisis and difficulties of national identity should become the main concern of the motherland and each Armenian diaspora colony.

The Iranian-Armenians have been passing through a difficult stage for 3 to 4 years now. Through the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran after the downfall of Reza Shah Pahlavi, a substantial religious fanaticism emerged in the country, primarily to the disadvantage of the minorities in which the Armenians occupy an important place. During the revolution days a wave of pressure and confinement of national activities arose which primarily struck at the Armenian sports and cultural clubs. Gradually, there were also impediments on Armenian schools by imposing on them Iranian directors, confining the teachings in Armenian, and causing difficulties. Soon the Armenian language teachings were only reserved for the religion lessons as the Iranian-Armenians were officially considered a religious minority.

However, this was also seen as too much and the Education Ministry officials began to impose the Persian language also in the teaching of religion. Armenian students and leaders responded with inevitable and just resistance because they could not tolerate further pressures. Class strikes followed, as did the visit by the religious and national leaders to the republic's leaders, complaints, petitions, cables, pledges, refusals, and two-faced answers, and so forth. In April this year the Armenian schools of Tehran,

Tabriz, and other locations were closed. The decrees issued by district education chiefs subjected some schools to liquidation and left the 4,000 Iranian-Armenian students without education. The situation became more serious when, upon the decision of the Education Ministry, new decrees were issued for the coming scholastic year and district laws were imposed on the minorities' schools. That is, in the coming scholastic period the Armenian students are obliged to attend only those schools located on their streets, whether it is Armenian or Persian, and vice-versa--Iranian students must attend their street school whether it is Iranian or Armenian.

If we add to this grave state the evidence that Iranian directors are mistreating the Armenian principals and teachers by subjecting them to public punishment, transferring them to other schools, and even slapping them, then the picture becomes very dim and threatens the entire existence of the Iranian-Armenian schools.

Certainly, it is not the first time that such tension throws its shadow on the ancient Armenian-Persian relations, and has been the characteristic between our peoples. However, this time it is totally incomprehensible for us and we can hardly explain the imposed pressures as a result of religious policy. Behind these we can see only one thing: The hand of the Turkish anti-Armenian policy, which has extended to Iran by taking advantage of the economic and other difficulties the latter is facing due to its war with Iraq. It also aims to strike at our colony in Iran, suppress its national resistance, and disperse this community near the motherland.

In light of these foreign pressures the responsibility of the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran to protect and care for the Armenian minority by securing its religious and communal existence is further stressed.

The Armenian and Iranian people have been neighbors for centuries and will stay so. Foreign interventions should not disturb these historic relations.

CSO: 4605/24

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION PUSHED, CRITICS SKEPTICAL

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German
1 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by vwd: "More Machines for Egypt's Farmers. Mubarak: Mechanization of Agriculture Has Priority"]

[Text] Egyptian President Mubarak recently affirmed the priority of the program for the mechanization of agriculture. The Egyptian side expects low-priced offers from foreign bidders; the latter compete for financing conditions in order to secure the market for themselves. The minister for agriculture and food security, Dr. Miraz, [as published] stated to journalists that by 1986-87, construction of 150 so-called mechanization stations is planned. The stations have the extensive task of acquainting farmers with modern technology, training them with available equipment, and providing advice on the acquisition of machines. Constant assistance is to be provided through continued educational measures, and particularly through maintenance service in their own workshops. In addition, the stations are to promote cooperation among private farmers for pooling agricultural machines and implements. Special enterprises might also be founded for the purpose of renting machinery to small farmers.

Financing of the project is difficult since in the public sector, foreign currency for necessary purchases abroad is chronically tight. Thus supplier circles were cheered by the news that the World Bank recently agreed to a loan of \$150 million. This amount is to be made available to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture as of January 1985. It serves the importation of agricultural machines and equipment. Construction of the stations falls mainly to Romania.

To date, individual private farmers have the largest demand. Their share of the most important agricultural machines on hand is above 80 percent, on an average. Up to now, the not too numerous group of larger private farmers had been the major customers of suppliers from Western industrial states. The public program of mechanization, however, is aimed at the mass of farmers operating on a small, or smallest, scale. The assistance measures are evidently oriented toward stimulating voluntary cooperation and pooling among producers to make possible a more efficient use of the agricultural machines.

Experts emphasize that mechanization is not enough to solve the acute supply difficulties in basic foodstuffs. They expect great momentum from a loosening of controlling state influence over farmers and other producers. At the least, a marked raise of purchase prices should be considered. An improved profit situation would be the strongest incentive for increasing production and using machinery.

But the government's hands are tied in this regard since, for sociopolitical reasons, it can move away only with difficulty from the administration's low consumer prices.

9917

CSO: 4620/4

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF LIBYAN MISSION MEMBERS IN VIENNA

AU221447 [Editorial Report] Vienna KURIER in German on 20 October carries on page 5 the 900-word second installment, and on 21 October on page 5 the 750-word third and concluding installment, of its series "Al-Qadhdhafi's Secret Command in Vienna."

The second installment deals with a member of the Vienna Libyan "People's Bureau," Ali Ahmed Abu Dschasia--spelling of preceding name as published--according to the paper, first came to Vienna in July, stayed a few weeks at the Bristol Hotel, then returned to Libya and came back to Vienna in September as a member of the bureau's "People's Committee." KURIER claims that he is identical with that Ali Ahmed Abu Dschasia who appeared in London in 1982, and in the summer of 1983 together with another three "students" threw the first group of "students" out of the London "People's Bureau" and took over the mission, and was subsequently involved in numerous acts of terrorism against anti-Al-Qadhdhafi Libyans in Britain, and left Britain only 5 days before the shots were fired from the mission building at British policewoman, Ivonne Fletcher. KURIER features a photograph of the policewoman and of a British police sniper guarding the mission building and adds that although Abu Dschasia cannot be one of the actual perpetrators, he certainly was one of the figures responsible for the Libyan "terrorism" in Britain at that time which led to this killing. KURIER also notes that Abu Dschasia's arrival in Vienna coincided with the discovery of an illicit arms shipment that was to go to the Libyan mission and was intercepted by police.

In the third and last installment of its series, KURIER asserts that the Vienna Libyan "People's Bureau," which not so long ago consisted of only 5 members, now comprises about 25 "busy men" who do not, however, pursue any normal diplomatic activities but are seeking "direct contact going from people to people," in other words, they are seeking to win friends for their "Libyan desert philosopher's green revolution" with the aid of virtually unlimited funds. The paper claims that "millions" were paid by the Libyans to an--unnamed--Innsbruck university professor who, after some meetings propagating Kurdish autonomy, eventually organized an "anti-Reagan Tribunal in Brussels," and that 5 million schillings were paid to a new Vienna monthly, "MOZ," by the Libyans as starting aid. KURIER carries a facsimile reproduction of a bank guarantee for 5 million schillings, on a form of the Vienna Creditanstalt bank, signed and stamped by "the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Wien," and naming as beneficiary

the "Gruen-Alternative Verlagsges.m.b.H." (Green-Alternative Publishing Company Ltd.), which publishes the monthly MOZ.

In conclusion, KURIER warns that Al-Qadhdhafi is not, as many Europeans rashly believe, a "madman," but rather, a "cool tactician who knows very well where latent dissatisfaction with democracy and green dreams can be forged into a new political ideology: in media and at symposiums, in clubs and student movements. It is there that soldiers are being recruited for the 'green revolution'--also here in Austria. No country is too small, no amount too high," the article says in conclusion.

CSO: 4500/13

TUNISIA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER MZALI VISIT TO JAPAN

LD200945 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] A joint communique released after the official visit by Mohamed Mzali and his wife to Japan says: This visit comes within the framework of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and Japan. The two prime ministers exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest and bilateral matters.

They expressed satisfaction with the cordial atmosphere in which their talks were held and which helped to tangibly deepen understanding between the two countries.

Looking upon peace and stability in the Middle East and Asia as a direct link to peace and prosperity in the entire world, the two sides agreed to continue their efforts to strengthen peace and stability in these regions.

The two sides stated in regard to the Mideast that it is necessary for all sides concerned to strive toward arriving quickly at a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Mideast conflict. They affirmed that solving this issue should be based on the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Arab territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem; and on restoring to the Palestinian people their legitimate and inalienable right to self-determination which includes the right to establish their own state in accordance with the UN Charter.

They affirmed the need to safeguard security and respect territorial sovereignty of all the area states.

The two sides expressed their deep concern over the events in Lebanon. They expressed their support for the Lebanese Government and its efforts to realize national unity, the territorial safety of the country, and the comprehensive withdrawal of foreign forces whose presence in Lebanon the Lebanese Government considers unlawful.

The two sides also expressed deep concern over the continuing Iraq-Iran conflict which constitutes a serious threat to peace and stability not only to the Gulf area but also to the entire world. They renewed the call for settling this conflict quickly by peaceful means.

Mohamed Mzali praised the diplomatic efforts of Japan to create an atmosphere that would encourage the establishment of peace in the area, noting in this connection the role played by Tunisia in the seven member committee and the proposals put forward by regional and international bodies to end this conflict.

The Japanese prime minister on his part lauded the distinguished role shouldered by Tunisia to strengthen stability in the Middle East and North Africa and its positive participation in settling regional disputes.

[words indistinct] Africa month currently being held successfully in Japan, they expressed the hope for developing more mutual understanding and widening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Japan and Africa.

Concerning the situation in South Africa, the two sides reaffirmed the need to liquidate the racial discrimination policy followed by the Government of South Africa, and speed up the Namibian independence in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 435.

The two sides also pointed out the need to continue and intensify their efforts to guarantee the best chances for success in the North-South dialogue, given the importance of establishing fruitful and balanced relations between industrial and developing countries in the international community, the cohesion of which continues to strengthen.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the steady development of the strong and cordial relations between Japan and Tunisia. The Japanese prime minister affirmed that the Japanese Government will make efforts to strengthen economic cooperation with Tunisia, to support Tunisia's economic and social development, and participate in achieving prosperity for the Tunisian people.

He expressed the intention of the Japanese Government to establish financial cooperation with Tunisia as a contribution to financing basic equipment, telecommunications, and agricultural development. The Japanese prime minister announced that the Japanese Government will tangibly bolster its technical cooperation with Tunisia to participate in the development of human resources which constitute an (?important) element of the (?economic) and social development in Tunisia. In this connection he expressed the intention to double the number of Tunisian trainees for fiscal year 1985 and accelerate the departure of a mission to Tunisia to study the projects to be included in the long-term technical cooperation.

It also became clear that the Japanese Government is ready to send experts to Tunisia to participate in outlining a plan for the regional institute for sciences information and technology [word indistinct].

Mohamed Mzali praised the Japanese economic contribution to Tunisian economic and social development, and also the results of the activity of Japanese volunteers for cooperation with overseas countries. He hoped that the Japanese Government continues sending these volunteers to Tunisia. The prime

minister also expressed the desire to develop Japanese tourism in Tunisia and hoped that the number of Tunisian students who received Japanese Government scholarships to study Japanese technology will increase.

On his part, Nakasone, lauded the great efforts made by Tunisia to raise the level of education and expressed the intention to tangibly double the number of scholarship grants for Tunisian students to study in Japan.

In an effort for both sides to become acquainted with the various aspects of bilateral cooperation and international issues of mutual interest, they agreed to establish a mixed committee for this purpose to be headed by senior officials appointed by both foreign ministers.

The two sides also agreed to make every effort to encourage the [word indistinct] of the economic organizations in both countries to create project of mutual interest to realize Tunisia's economic and social development.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the official visit of Mohamed Mzali and the delegation which accompanied him. The visit tangibly contributed to strengthening the mutual understanding between Japan and the Tunisian Republic and strengthened the ties of friendship and cooperation between them.

Mohamed Mzali expressed his great gratitude to the Japanese Government and people for the warm welcome accorded him and his wife and the accompanying delegation during their stay in Japan and he extended an invitation to the Japanese prime minister to pay an official visit to Tunisia.

The visit was accepted and its date will be fixed by diplomatic means.

CSO: 4500/12

BRIEFS

CONTRACT WITH INDIA--Iraq has agreed to pay Engineering Projects India (EPI) \$35mm more for the completion of the council of ministers' complex. The increase brings the total value of the work to \$100mm. EPI workers hope to meet the December 1985 deadline. The construction includes a main complex, service buildings, car parks, roads, a helipad, an emergency power-generation system and installation of sophisticated infra-red and micro-wave security systems, as well as electrical, mechanical and telecommunications equipment. The project originally awarded to EPI in May 1979, was held up by design modifications by the Iraqi government in 1983 and several months this year. The building will house the offices of the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and other ministers. [Text] [Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 26, 15 Oct 84 p 12]

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR APPOINTED--Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)--It has been announced here that Hikmat Ibrahim has been appointed the governor of the Iraqi Central Bank, succeeding Hasan al-Najafi. This came in a republican decree issued in Baghdad yesterday. Ibrahim was the chief of the RCC economic affairs office and minister of trade for more than 3 years. He has also occupied many leading positions in the party and the government. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Oct 84 JN]

CSO: 4400/24

EVENTS LEADING TO DEFENSE MINISTER'S MOSCOW TRIP DISCUSSED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 37, Sep 84
pp 6-9

[Text]

“What is the latest news on the Iraqi bombing of Kharg Island?” asked a French diplomat working in Kuwait. He added with a smile, “We would like to know the extent of efficiency of our planes and missiles.” The diplomat was talking about the French Super Etendard aircraft and Exocet missiles — both weapons, according to military experts, were responsible for the latest escalation in the Iraq-Iran war.

Before the employment by Iraq of the Super Etendard around the end of May, casualties were fewer. Following the introduction of this French aircraft, a powerful tactical bomber equipped with the latest electronic equipment, accuracy was improved and Iraq came nearer to achieving its objective of besieging Kharg Island, the main outlet of Iranian oil.

At a meeting in June with the editors of Kuwaiti newspapers in Baghdad, Saddam Hussein was asked to furnish his guests with an exclusive news item: the piece chosen was “Saudi tanker near Kharg Island hit by Iraqi weapons.” Notwithstanding the sensitivity of the issue, and in spite of the Saudi statement that it wasn't a government tanker and was operating on a commercial basis, the Iraqi president's statement makes it quite clear that any tanker approaching Kharg Island will be hit, no matter who it belongs to. The statement also implies that the new weaponry is now in use, and both facts mean that a new phase in the war has been reached.

In the Gulf the issue of armaments is now the topic of public conversation in

this the fourth year of the Gulf war. Discussions involve comparisons between US Stinger missiles and the Soviet SAM series; or questions such as, are the Saudi-obtained Stingers suitable climate-wise for the region? Is the US refusal to allow such missiles for Kuwait due to a fear of the shoulder-fired missiles being transferred in some way to the Palestinian resistance? It has also been claimed that another reason for this refusal was that Kuwait had applied for a more advanced model than the one the Saudis obtained. The Gulf war has shocked the states of the region into a scramble for arms. They are all now worried about how best to defend themselves — will it be the US early warning system, the Soviet early warning system, or both, together with aerial defences, that will grant them safety?

Many ask these questions even though they are not military experts. The explanation is that the question of armament and defence sales has become both political and commercial. Delegations arrive and go, heralding the age in which ministers and ambassadors are the new arms sales middlemen. All the major countries supply arms to the Gulf area, fuelling the protracted war — the last report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) claims that 38 countries export arms to the Gulf.

This sad story did not start with the commencement of the Iraq-Iran war in September 1980 but with the oil shock of 1973. The Opec countries were reported to have gained \$1,203.7bn from oil sales between 1973 and 1980: half this amount

was spent on imports, the greater part of which were for military use. In 1974 Middle East arms purchases reached \$10bn — \$15bn in the following year. During 1973–1975 Iran alone purchased arms from the US worth \$12.4bn, according to former president of Iran Bani Sadr. The military budget quadrupled in that country and tripled in Saudi Arabia. In Kuwait military expenditure also quadrupled, and in Iraq increased by 140 per cent during this period.

The arms race has continued to intensify ever since, and in 1980 three out of the biggest ten contracts signed by Arab countries were for arms. One of these was a contract worth \$3.4bn between Saudi Arabia and France to equip the Saudi navy. In the same year, Egypt concluded a contract with the US for the purchase of 244 tanks for \$454m. Qatar (population 258,000) signed a \$361m contract with France for the purchase of boats carrying missiles and other military equipment. All this was before the war. At the beginning of the war, Iraq and Iran increased their military purchases and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and Oman) did the same. According to the SIPRI report issued in June 1984, arms sales to the Middle Eastern countries are estimated at \$50bn for 1983 — France alone has sold \$5m worth of weapons since the beginning of the conflict, up to 1983.

The Gulf area has thus turned into a huge arms market. Reporting on the military balance of the war, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London puts the Iraqi military at 517,000 men, in a country of 14.3 million. Iraqi forces are equipped with sophisticated weapons, including 150 MiGs, 42 Mirages and 5 Super Etendards, as well as other aircraft, which indicates the variety of suppliers. This is also the case with the armoured forces, which have recently taken delivery of 260 Chinese tanks. Iran on the other hand (population 41.5 million) has one million men in military and paramilitary forces. It has eastern as well as western weapons. In monetary terms, Iraq's defence expenditure in 1982 was \$7.7m (probably more in 1983), while the Iranian figure for 1983 is \$13.3bn.

The same report by the IISS states that GCC defence expenditure reached \$28.5bn in 1983 and that their armed forces number 170,000 men, with 916 tanks, 2,750 armoured vehicles, 311 fighter planes and 200 helicopters. Most of

these men and equipment belong to Saudi Arabia, the third power in the region after Iran and Iraq. Its defence expenses alone are \$22bn — 77 per cent of the total GCC defence expenditure. Other countries are tiny by comparison. The people of Bahrain, for example (400,000 in number) have an army of 2,700 men. Its defence expenditure reached \$253m in 1983. Qatar is another example: a population of 260,000 and an army of 6,000 men. In 1983 its defence expenditure was \$165m.

The question is, can such tiny countries defend themselves? Will they have the motive to increase the size of their arsenals and their defence spending? Kuwait is the strongest advocate of independence among the countries of the region and the most eager to maintain a balance in international relations. It is the only GCC country which maintains relations with the Soviet Union. According to the IISS report Kuwait, with a population of 1.5 million, has a force of 12,400 men and its defence spending reached \$1.5bn by 1982.

It has 49 fighter planes, 60 bombers, 17 Mirage Interceptors, 2 transport planes, 3 helicopter fleets, one training fleet and missiles. Its army consists of an infantry brigade, an armoured brigade and a missile battalion, and Kuwait has artillery mortars, surface-to-surface and air-to-surface missiles. The weaponry mainly originates from the US, the Soviet Union and France.

Defence measures in Kuwait, according to a Kuwaiti military spokesman, had started well before the Iraq-Iran war. Hawk (surface-to-air) anti-aircraft missiles have been in service since the 1970s, together with early warning radar systems which can spot targets up to 30km away. In the Kuwaiti defence system, targets are tracked by radar and the command and control system interfaces between the radar and the Hawk batteries distributed on the coast and inland. The range of the missiles is 40km, which reaches right to the Iranian borders. An official from the Abdullah Al Salem airbase stated: "We have developed our interceptors and increased their number. Advanced missiles have been supplied and modern helicopters purchased."

Kuwait views its defence as a major concern, the country being the closest to the frontline between its warring neighbours. However, following the row over the US refusal to sell Stinger missiles to Kuwait and the suggestions that the Kuwaiti defence minister's visit to Moscow and other eastern countries was a reaction to the American position, a new phase, fraught with danger, has been entered.

Fear is an indigenous feature for the tiny Gulf states which maintain a perilous existence in this strategically important area. When oil prices rocketed in 1973 a western commentator remarked of these states: "They are extremely small and extremely significant." In the following years the West, particularly the US, drummed up the idea of a Soviet threat and pictured alliance with the West as the necessary step to counter the danger. But was there a real threat from the Soviet Union to Arab oil? I put the question to the British ambassador to one of the Gulf states, adding that the Soviet Union does not need Gulf oil--it has surplus energy and has entered into long-term contracts for the supply of gas to Western Europe. The ambassador smiled and said, "Yes, we know that. But being so close to the Gulf they can in times of trouble block oil going to the West, and that is the real problem."

I repeated the same question to a Soviet ambassador, adding: "You are interested in Gulf oil, aren't you?" He replied immediately, "We are rather interested in the Gulf. It is our southern border. We interpret the presence of western fleets and their rapid deployment forces, under the pretext of the protection of oil routes, as a western threat to our borders."

Now the American rapid deployment forces have come to the region and the US has urged its allies to protect the Gulf, both militarily and financially. Even Japan joined in this implicit agreement after a long period of hesitation. This has reaffirmed the American presence in the Gulf. The US Middle East Task Force has been developed with a US headquarters and large forces, and the Gulf has become a command under the personal supervision of President Reagan. Added to this is the naval presence in the Indian Ocean and the Diego Garcia base, 2,300 miles south of the Strait of Hormuz. This can supply the Gulf forces when needed. British officers and experts occupy sensitive positions as well, some of which are official in some Gulf states. There is also a French military and naval presence in Djibouti.

Was the Soviet threat or the protection of oil the only justification for the measures taken? According to political circles in the Gulf, the list of reasons is long and variable. There is the Iranian threat in general, and the issue of sectarianism causing internal political troubles--the exportation of the Iranian revolution through the Shiite minorities in the Gulf is seen as a possibility by governments here. Real also is the possibility of a takeover by anti-American elements who might come to power as a reaction to what is taking place in Palestine or Lebanon. There is also "the socialist threat" according to the western viewpoint, "and enmity against the existing moderate regimes and Iranian or Palestinian terrorism." Soviet diplomats talk of another threat--namely, the nuclear missiles now in Western Europe can reach the Gulf in any world conflict.

With the Gulf states unable to deal with the latter threat, they can only confine themselves to the other dangers, besides that of undesired intervention by the West. This would mean more arms to the region, since these threats said to be imperilling the Gulf states are used as inducements to further arms deals. This was the situation before the so-called tanker war which has now made the Gulf states even more determined in their efforts to obtain more weapons.

About 8-9 million barrels pass every day through the Strait of Hormuz, which President Reagan said he would not allow to be closed and which has indeed remained open throughout the 4-year-old war. Ships have been hit from time to time but from May 1981—May 1984 the numbers hit did not exceed 83, some of these being unintentional targets. Casualties have included commercial ships and oil tankers, with damage ranging from minor scatches to total destruction. But when Iraq earlier this year stepped up its blockade at the main Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island by striking all ships approaching it, Iran responded by shelling three tankers — both Saudi and Kuwaiti — and the level of tension mounted. Insurance premiums rocketed, and some states ordered their ships not to approach the Gulf. The chairman of the Suez Canal Corporation told the press recently that only oil ships were now going to the Gulf. Iran decreased its dependence on the Kharg Island terminals, and it was during this period that an Iranian F-14 jet was shot down by the Saudi airforce.

The question now raised among the Gulf states is what happens next? Halting oil production would not be tolerated by western countries or by the Gulf states themselves; at the same time, continuation of production under western protection with Gulf facilities could increase involvement on the international level. The war is not expected to stop in the near future — in the meantime, the Gulf states are left with a near-impossible burden of self-defence.

American statements reiterate the desire shown since 1981 to form military alliances and have direct military presence in the Gulf: "there will be no intervention until the states of the region invite the same" means that the West is waiting for an invitation. Meanwhile the Gulf states, aware of the sensitivity of the issue, rule out the possibility of requesting this intervention and want the US to confine sup-

port to supply of armaments. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed, the Kuwait minister of foreign affairs and deputy premier, has said "We shall defend our liberty and independence by ourselves, without any imposed support." Abdul Aziz Hussain, the country's minister of state, said in another statement: "The presence of forces belonging to one major power necessitates the presence of another major power's forces." Other political statements in Kuwait have stressed "we did not ask for the American fleet to guard our tankers" and "we shall not grant bases or facilities to anyone," while a prominent Saudi official is reported to have said: "No one would like to see the American infantry wandering about on our territories."

Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, foreign minister of Bahrain, excluded the possibility of calling for direct US intervention — despite close relations with both the US and Britain. He added that his country could possibly seek the support of Jordan or other Arab countries in matters of defence. Press reports reveal that the Gulf states refused a British offer to put their fleet in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea at the disposal of these states in order to protect shipping traffic.

Self-defence is clearly the major issue for the Gulf states; no state contemplates sending troops to the Iraqi front or widening the scope of the war, even though this may help in stopping it. Two elements are essential for self-defence, given the developed weapons possessed by Iran:

- Effective early warning systems; and
- Prompt response defence weapons, whether these be missiles or aircraft.

When the war started, Kuwait was the nearest non-combatant to the front (50km from the nearest Iranian military airport: only a 13.7 minute flight away). There was an understanding that the Awacs monitoring Iranian movements would report any manoeuvres to Washington and Saudi Arabia, and one of these would relay the information to Kuwait — which would naturally take some additional time. But the question remained — was the whole air-defence set-up sufficient to undertake the task?

Although the US later agreed to allow Kuwait direct access to the Awacs early warning system, it refused to sell it the anti-aircraft Stinger missiles "for fear that they may fall into the hands of Palestinian terrorists." The refusal of the US administration even to propose this issue

to Congress was a clear victory for the powerful US Zionist lobby. The American refusal coincided with the visit by the Kuwaiti defence minister to Moscow and other Eastern bloc countries, which gave Kuwait the opportunity to tap alternatives to the American defence systems.

A contract for military purchase has been initiated which will later be ratified and signed in Kuwait. Unusual interest has been shown in the visit made by the defence minister who stated that the Soviets did not refuse any demand made by Kuwait, which has maintained diplomatic relations with the USSR since 1963. Andrei Gromyko is expected to visit Kuwait by the end of this year. The question is, did Moscow meet the Kuwaiti demand for defence systems? Will this then become an example for other Gulf states to follow? Reports in Kuwait state that Moscow has offered an advanced radar-operated early warning system with capabilities equal to the US Awacs. Delegates accompanying the Kuwaiti minister on his visit say that the Soviet system is in the form of balloons equipped with an early warning system which can be deployed at high altitudes to monitor the movements of planes and vessels.

American reports — despite official statements playing down the visit — say that the Kuwait-Soviet deal included surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, and a number of tanks and weapons worth \$300m. An American foreign affairs spokesman said that Kuwait will obtain US equipment to improve its early warning system, and Robert McFarlane, National Security Adviser to Reagan, has suggested that Kuwait will enter into other agreements with western countries. Diplomatic sources in Kuwait say that he means France, which can supply a great deal — including advanced Mirage fighters.

A lot of other deals are yet to be concluded in the Gulf. An official announcement from the Pentagon in late June stated that "the American administration will present a plan to Congress aiming to upgrade the Kuwaiti defence systems with \$80m worth of weapons and equipment. These will include radar equipment and equipment to improve the communication and coordination with Saudi Arabia." Officials in Kuwait confirm this: "Missiles are expected to arrive together with sophisticated electronic command and control systems." The GCC states, according to the last annual report by the IISS, have contracted to buy 300 heavy tanks, 900 armoured vehicles, 105 Mirage-2000s, Jaguar fighters and Hawk missiles, and 36 fighter helicopters. The same report states that Saudi Arabia has ordered 210 tanks, 180 armoured vehicles with missile-firing capabilities, guns, missiles, military ships, marine helicopters and marine defence systems.

Press sources add that Saudi Arabia has signed a letter confirming its intention to purchase two fleets of Tornado aircraft (British/Italian/West German), which are capable of low flight. The report explains that Saudi Arabia had to take this action after the heated debate in the US Congress on the sale of Awacs and F-15s to the Saudi airforce, and adds that Oman has also shown its intention to buy Tornados.

Iraqi officials on the other hand have implied that relations with the Soviet Union are returning to normal. Reports indicate that there is an Iranian attempt to approach the Soviets for arms and that the country has already obtained weapons from China. The arms "bazaar" in the Gulf has now become so variable in content that air weaponry alone comprises 13 types of aircraft from the US, France, the USSR and the UK. It is said in the Gulf that there are now three flowing streams: oil from the Gulf to the outside world; arms flowing to the Gulf; and an enormous river of cash.

PROBLEMS FACING NEW STOCK EXCHANGE NOTED

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 25, 8 Oct 84 p 11

[Text]

The Kuwait Stock Exchange has moved to its luxurious new \$62mn building, hoping to leave its troubled past behind. The eight-storey structure, with \$10mn in computer equipment alone, stands in sharp contrast to the nearby basement floor that has housed the exchange since 1976.

Despite the new home, investment analysts do not expect any dramatic increase in the trading volume or prices, which have remained depressed since the Souq al-Manakh crash in April 1982. Official share prices plummeted when the unofficial market collapsed, leaving \$94bn in bounced, postdated cheques.

As a result trading volumes on the official market nose-dived; last week only one million dollars of shares were traded compared to \$1.5bn a week at the height of the speculative boom.

Of 48 Gulf companies traded on the Manakh exchange eight, including two banks, will be included in the official stock market, usually reserved for Kuwaiti firms.

To prevent further severe price movements, the new director of the stock exchange, Khaled Khorafi, has instituted regulations governing trading. Among

these are the restriction of price movements on individual deals to only a few cents and opening trading to the whole floor, with bids and offers registered on the board for all to see. This will replace the private transactions between big investors of the past. Also, brokers are now required to guarantee payments and will receive higher commissions.

Clearly Mr Khorafi is attempting to replace the high-speed speculation that characterised Kuwait's stock exchange with a more modest but secure market.

Mr Khorafi told the *Financial Times* that the large investors were welcome back but they must accept his new rules. "The important thing now is to regain the confidence of the investors and to plan an orderly market for the future," he explained.

Meanwhile efforts to resolve the debt crisis following the Manakh crash continue under a formula unveiled last July as the final solution. Already 250 people face bankruptcy and perhaps more will follow. Officials have refrained from identifying any of the potential bankrupts because of their prominence.

CSO: 4400/22

BRIEFS

NEW HOUSING ARRANGEMENT--The task of housebuilding in Kuwait used to be undertaken by the Public Housing Corporation, but the Supreme Council for Housing has recommended the involvement of the private sector in housing projects. In response to this policy, Kuwait Finance House decided to present a housing scheme. Houses constructed under the scheme would be diverse in plans and designs and would have various extras chosen by the applicant citizen within the limits of the loan. The scheme will hopefully help reduce the financial burden of the public sector and prevent alterations by the individuals to the original plans, thus facilitating urban planning. A supplementary list will accompany every house plan, including between 50-100 pre-studied alterations especially designed to prevent changes, the cost of which would otherwise fall beyond the domain of the loan agreement and certainly against the building and construction laws. Under the KFH scheme a unification of design will be achieved, since only technically specialised bodies would undertake planning and construction, as distinguished from the prevailing sporadic approach. An ad hoc committee has been formed to negotiate with KFH the possibility of implementing the scheme. [Text] [East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 37, Sep 84 p 52]

CSO: 4400/20

SHI'ITE GUERRILLAS FIGHT IN THREE-MAN CELLS

Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 9 Sep 84 p 6

[Text]

BEIRUT: Lebanese guerrillas fighting Israeli troops in south Lebanon operate in three-man cells with no central leadership, according to resistance fighter who said he had reached Beirut by a clandestine route.

"Every three brothers know only each other, so Israel cannot discover more than three people," said the 25-year-old Shi'ite muslim fighter who gave his name as Sadeq. "We refuse the creation of a single leader who might become a traitor."

Sadeq, a former philosophy student, was interviewed by Reuters in a flat in Beirut's southern suburbs. Posters of the Shi'ite Amal militia adorned the room. A machinegun and three rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers completed the decor.

Asked how he had managed to penetrate Israeli lines, Sadeq said: "As a Lebanese I know the geography of my country and roads the Israeli army doesn't know. We take care to find new roads and valleys each time. It is our speciality."

Sadeq declared allegiance to the "Lebanese national resistance front," which he said was not an organisation but a general term for all acts of resistance by southerners.

He said the front included the Lebanese Communist Party and Shi'ite villagers loyal to amal or to local religious leaders. He said he was an amal member before Israel's invasion of Lebanon, but would not say if he still was.

The Israelis went into Lebanon in June 1982 to drive Palestinian guerril-

las away from the border. They refuse to leave until they are confident the guerrillas will not return.

Sadeq said he had taken part in hit-and-run attacks on the Israelis, including one in the coastal tyre area in March 1983.

He described how he and three accomplices had stashed weapons — a kalashnikov assault rifle, a german submachinegun, grenades and a Soviet-made RPG launcher — near the site of the operation, planned from 1 p.m. on a Sunday.

"After hiding them, we went to the beach and stayed for two hours to dispel suspicion. Then we went back to the arms cache and 'attacked' a patrol made up of two armoured troop carriers with nine soldiers in each," he said.

"We fired first at a soldier manning a heavy machinegun. A passing tractor drowned the shooting with its horn. We killed three soldiers and replaced the weapons in their hiding place.

"We went back to the beach at 2 p.m. and stayed till 5 p.m. before returning to our village as if nothing had happened," Sadeq said.

To counter such attacks, the Israelis now rarely put more than one or two men in a vehicle, Sadeq said. Western military sources say Israel's lower military profile and greater precautions have reduced Israeli casualties in recent months.

Sadeq said the front's main aim was to kill or wound Israeli soldiers to turn the south into what he termed a "vale of tears" for Israeli families.

Israel says 589 Israelis have been killed in Lebanon since the invasion.

Sadeq put the front's "losses at about 30 dead."

Israel restrictions, such as strict control on traffic in and out of the south, hurt the region's economy but could not quell the resistance, Sadeq argued. "We have no choice but to fight Israel despite the bad economic situation," he said.

Sadeq said the resistance had no need of outside arms supplies and was proud of its independence from external help.

"We have been fighting Israel for two years and have not taken any weapons, bullets or bombs from anyone," he declared.

Southerners had weapons of their own and the front had helped itself to arms left behind by palestinian guerrillas who dominated the south before Israel invaded, Sadeq said.

He admitted that some people had collaborated with the Israelis and had even welcomed them at first because they expelled the palestinians.

But "after a month or two we felt a great danger from the invasion," he said, and the prolonged occupation had turned all but a few southerners against the Israelis.

Israel's local agents "were able to bother us for a while and we have prisoners in the Israeli prison camp of ansar because of them," he said. "... but in future we will be able to get rid of them all."

He described himself and his men as "muslim nationalists" but said there were also christian fighters in the resistance.

Sadeq said that he had to resist the occupation as a patriot. But he also fought Israel as a muslim because it had "raped the holy land and profaned the Aqsa Mosque (in Jerusalem)."

"We are convinced Israel will stay for ever if we don't mount attacks," he concluded. "No negotiations, whether political or otherwise, will impose an Israeli withdrawal." — Bernama.

CSO: 4400/23

DEVELOPMENT, RECONSTRUCTION COUNCIL BUDGET PROPOSED

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 26, 15 Oct 84 p 2

[Text]

Lebanon's Council for Development and Reconstruction has submitted a construction plan for 1984/85 to the council of ministers. The budget includes LL2.332bn for new projects and LL1.128bn for 1983's commitment. Of this, the CDR can provide only LL1.285bn.

The council has expanded its scope to include social, productive and service projects. In total, government departments suggested 150 projects to the CDR, who had to choose from these and rank them on the basis of urgency, security of the region concerned and balancing the allotment to each area, to ensure that the proposal would pass the council of ministers.

CDR'S Proposed Finances For
1984/85 Programme

	LL. billion
1. Programme's total expenditure	4.310
A. 1983 expenditure commitments	1.128
B. 84/85 new expenditure	2.332
C. Credit to productive and domestic sectors	0.850
2. Funds available to CDR as of 31/1/84	1.285
A. Treasury liabilities to the CDR	0.735
B. Commercial banks' credit to the CDR	0.550
3. Needed funds for 84/85 programme	3.025

Expenditure allocations under the CDR programme for fiscal 1984-85
(LL Million)

Projects for	Joint national projects	Greater Beirut	Mount Lebanon	Northern Lebanon	Bekaa	Nabatiya	Southern Lebanon
Education	46	25	43	68	46	27	28
Health	2	32	4	14	—	10	12
Housing	—	330	380	125	125	30	90
Agriculture	—	2	15	25	51	11	49
Irrigation	3	—	7	14	62	11	10
Industry	250	—	—	—	—	—	—
Petroleum	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Potable water	24	189	30	—	7	30	133
Sewage waste	5	72	29	5	5	1	13
Telecommunications	29	15	15	10	10	5	10
Roads	10	95	305	130	100	60	80
Ports	84	—	—	25	—	—	—
Railroads	9	11	8	1	—	—	—
Mass Communications	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beirut Downtown Commercial District	596	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urban Development	2	5	1	—	—	—	—
Public Administration	44	—	—	—	—	—	—
Planning studies	77	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,301	776	737	467	406	185	438
Area projects %	30%	18%	17%	11%	10%	4%	10%

CSO: 4400/23

BRIEFS

CENTRAL BANK RAISES REQUIRED DEPOSITS--The Bank of Lebanon (central bank) has increased the obligatory reserves for banks from 15 per cent to 17 per cent, in the latest of a series of moves designed to strengthen the pound. The new requirement will go into effect from 5 November. The pound fell to a record low of 8.02 to the dollar in the last week of September before the central bank took the first of what it said would be a series of measures, selling \$20mn. It also ordered commercial banks to reduce foreign currency positions from 50 per cent to 15 per cent of capital. [Text] [Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 26, 15 Oct 84 p 2]

CSO: 4400/23

FOREIGN CORPORATE SECTOR SURVEYED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 36, Aug 84
pp 42-43

[Text]

IF A Saudi journal has made available for the first time a list profiling the 100 largest joint ventures in the country. The compilation of the list was no doubt an arduous task and Dr Talal Khalid Hafiz is to be congratulated on attempting it. In the tables, *Islamic Finance* presents "guesstimates" based on the information made available by *Saudi Business*.

Saudi Business admits that its statistics "do not represent a listing of the absolute largest investments, but rather are an attempt to define those companies most likely to be among the largest foreign investors in Saudi Arabia." The gaps in the data are indeed appalling. No figures whatsoever are given on the volume of assets, sales, profits, or borrowings. No information on the distribution of shares between national and foreign interests is given for 61 of the 100 listed companies.

Estimates for growth in sales for fiscal 1983-84 are given for only seven firms. Sales figures are not reported even for such giant enterprises as Mobil Oil, Standard Oil, Wimpey Arabia and Kellogg. Thirty-seven firms once again including the largest concerns such as Mobil and Wimpey – give no figures on employment. Eight companies, including Dow Chemicals of America, do not reveal the name of their chief executive. *Saudi Business* does not disclose its data gathering methods. It is therefore impossible to apportion responsibility for data inadequacies between the research staff of the paper and the firms.

Nevertheless some important trends are revealed by the study. The most outstanding of these is undoubtedly the preponderant role of the United States in the foreign investment sector. No other country has anything like the leverage of the American firms, although it must be noted that European investment – EEC plus Scandinavia plus Switzerland – also accounts for 40 of the largest 100 joint ventures.

The foreign firms enjoy a high level of autonomy in Saudi Arabia. We estimate that at least 65 of the 92 chief executives identified in the list are non-Saudis.

Moreover, the level of non-Saudi ownership of stock is also high. The aggregate average foreign ownership is 40 per cent for the nine firms for which data has been made available. Bouygues is wholly-owned by the French. Sixty per cent of the shares of Snamprogetti and 40 per cent of the shares of the British firm Cable and Wireless are held by the companies themselves.

The companies are located in some of the most dynamic sectors of the economy. Although some of the largest groups remain in oil and construction, there has been significant diversification with rapid expansion in engineering – which now has the largest number of firms among the leading foreign 100 – petrochemicals and telecommunications.

Foreign firms are of course the main suppliers of advanced technology in all sectors – including those in which they have no substantial equity holdings. Foreign firms themselves employ the most advanced production technology. It is, of course, not possible to estimate capital intensity but the number of employees per firm is 660 for those largest foreign investors for whom data has been provided. For the 100 largest firms in Saudi Arabia, average employment per firm is 4,724 – more than 7 times higher than the foreign firms employment ratio.

Three important, albeit tentative, conclusions can be drawn on the basis of these figures. There is a need to diversify foreign investment – to reduce the role of American, British and Japanese firms and to increase the incentive for investment by Muslim and other developing countries – Gulf Enterprises and BHEL are the only representatives from the Muslim world in the top 100 joint ventures. A diversification of foreign investment can increase the ability of the government to regulate the policies of these firms and to coordinate these policies within the context of its national development strategy.

Joint Ventures: National Origin of 100 Largest Companies in Saudi Arabia

Sectoral Distribution of 100 Largest Joint Ventures in Saudi Arabia

Country	Percent	Sector	Percent
USA	43.6	Engineering	34.6
EEC	(28.4)	Construction	25
UK	12.7	Oil and Petrochemical	17.3
Japan	6.4	Services	11.5
Switzerland and Sweden	5.3 each	Communications	7.7
S. Korea, Denmark and West Germany	4.25 each	Agriculture	3.8
France	3.2		
Italy	2.1		
Australia, Singapore, Bahrain, Finland, Ireland, India and Belgium	1.00 each		

Second there is a need to rethink the role of the foreign investor in the context of the Saudiisation objective. Saudiisation must involve both a gradual substitution for foreign capital by Saudi capital and the development of an appropriate indigenous technology capable of fully utilising the local manpower resources.

After all, Saudi Arabia has a population approaching ten million. How many of these can be efficiently employed on the type of technology the foreign firms import into the country? Major institutional and technological initiatives are required to ensure that the economy does not develop a dual structure, with a dynamic internationally oriented core and a pensioned hinterland incapable of participation in economic modernisation. Agriculture is clearly a key sector and the foreign firms are not interested in agriculture: only four of the top 100 are in agriculture.

Given the importance of the foreign firms it is vitally important to scrutinise their performance closely. This cannot be done by government officials alone. The competitors of these firms and the general public must be given access to the type of information that is readily available throughout the western world. Such information is essential for the realistic performance evaluation and for the development of an institutional framework for broadening the national investment base. Both of these must be of concern to Saudi leaders who are committed to privatisation.

The development of an efficient private sector requires wide dissemination of business information and the establishment of routine procedures for evaluating the policies and performance of the corporate sector. In the absence of such a system market leaders have the capacity to develop an information monopoly which enables them to conceal their shortcomings. The harassed government official is usually in no position to break this information monopoly. That is why countries such as the United States and West Germany force private sector investors to publish detailed accounts on a regular basis and their accounts are readily available to the public.

PROGRESS IN PETROCHEMICAL MARKET NOTED

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 25, 8 Oct 84 pp 6-7

[Text]

Concern by Western European petrochemical firms over the rising competitiveness of the Saudi Arabian industry is anything but shortsighted. However, Saudi Arabia, like most developing countries, faces an uphill climb in its attempt to assert itself in a glutted petrochemical world market.

One disturbing aspect of Saudi Arabia's much-heralded coming-of-age in the petrochemical field is its being undertaken without the necessary research into market demand and conditions. One Kuwaiti expert charged during a recent UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) meeting that not a single organisation in the Gulf region has a clear picture of the petrochemical scene.

So far, problems related to the lack of research into demand and supply have been limited to the marketing of Saudi Arabian products in Europe where petrochemical companies have been cutting back on production because of overcapacity. EEC sources reveal that the amount of Saudi methanol imported duty-free up until August 1984 was around 6,000 tonnes. That is way above the annual 500 tonnes ceiling imposed on duty-free methanol imports to the EEC.

Nervous Dutch petrochemical companies were able to push their government into requesting an import tariff of 13.5 per cent on Saudi methanol. But their victory may be shortlived as EEC officials are now saying tariffs on part of the methanol shipment will be lifted in 1985. On the other hand, Saudi Arabian officials, anxious to allay Western European fears and avoid further trade barriers, are making it clear that they "intend to play by the rules" in the marketing of their petrochemical products in the West.

However, Saudi Arabia may face a real problem as more of its projects and petrochemical plants

come on stream in the next year or so, thus increasing its petrochemical output. Opec energy specialist Marcello Maldonado says Saudi Arabia (and other Opec countries) would be well advised to shift emphasis in production and marketing strategies and concentrate on Third World markets. Mr Maldonado, a member of the Opec Secretariat's Energy Studies Department claims there are two reasons for favouring Third World markets to industrialised markets. One, because the expected economic growth in developing countries will be higher than in the industrialised countries; and, two, because the Third World offers as yet unexplored markets. Mr Maldonado urged Opec petrochemical producers to tap the Third World's needs for fertilisers and plastics and start trade arrangements immediately. He said that for most developing countries, setting up new petrochemical industries would be self-defeating given the world petrochemical glut (idle ethylene capacity alone is estimated at 20 million tonnes).

His advice was echoed during a mid-September meeting of UNIDO's 11-country advisory panel on petrochemicals. UNIDO experts called on developing nations to carry out careful surveys of demand and marketing possibilities before expanding their petrochemical industries. Commenting on Saudi Arabia's industry, the Kuwaiti representative said it had come on stream although basic data on country and regional demand continued to be inadequate. He said it was essential that organisations in the Gulf region make up for the lack of research and knowledge about the world petrochemical market.

In spite of such charges, Saudi Arabia seems to be making noticeable inroads especially in the Japanese market where demand for Saudi polyethylene is

rising. Several Japanese companies are currently involved in joint projects for the production and marketing of Saudi polyethylene. The Mitsubishi Corporation heads a group of ten Japanese industrial companies which have agreed to import 97,500 tonnes of Jubail polyethylene annually. Mitsubishi will also be marketing the product in China and other Asian countries. Moreover, Japan's Overseas Economic Fund has undertaken to set up a petrochemical complex in conjunction with Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic). The plant's annual production capacity, when it comes on stream in July 1985, will be 130,000 tonnes of polyethylene and 150,000 tonnes of ethylene. The Japanese are already partners in the Saudi Methanol Company plant which has a capacity of 600,000 tonnes a year.

Apparently undaunted by appeals for caution such as those voiced by UNIDO and Opec's Maldonado, Saudi Arabia is going full-steam ahead with the expansion of its petrochemical industries. Saudi methanol capacity is due to double in three months as the Saudi National Methanol Company's Ibn Sina plant reaches its projected 650,000 tonnes annual capacity. No less than six other petrochemical plants are due to come on stream in the next year, including the largest petrochemical project in the Kingdom: Sadaf, the Saudi Arabian Petrochemical Company's Jubail plant. That plant alone will have an annual capacity of 656,000 tonnes of ethylene, 456,000 tonnes of ethylene dichloride, 295,000 tonnes of styrene, 281,000 tonnes of crude industrial ethanol and 377,000 tonnes of caustic soda.

If the five-year 1985-1990 plan outlined by Sabic, the semi-governmental holding company which oversees the Kingdom's petrochemical projects, is any indication, Saudi Arabia is now contemplating expanding "second generation" petrochemical industries. According to its annual report, Sabic expects to spend about \$4.5bn in capital investments on downstream industries. That is in addition to the \$10.7bn invested by Sabic on projects to date. Second generation industries envisaged include oxygen, nitrogen, plastics and MTBE (an anti-knock compound used in unleaded petrol).

Shell Chemicals warned last week that the European petrochemical market would become a "blood-bath" in 1985 with the arrival of Middle Eastern petrochemicals.

Rien Waale, head of Royal Dutch Shell's chemicals' division, told the *Financial Times* that the arrival

of the petrochemicals would be a shock. "I don't see any organised way to absorb it. It will cause a blood-bath in polyethylene and ethylene glycol in the first place, accounting for around ten per cent of the European market."

Shell's official view is that demand for petrochemicals will slow in 1985 after two commercially sound years. If the dollar firms next year against European currencies this, too, may reduce sales to the US, which are strong now.

"Too much product on the market will lead us right back to the disaster of 1980 and 1981 when people cut prices to hold market shares," said Mr Waale. "There will be a shake-out in the industry — whether it will be 1985 or 1986 — it will come."

"Ethylene will go down in price," said Mr Waale. "That will happen next year, unless a miracle happens."

He said the survivors would be the chemical groups integrated with an oil company. Shell Oil US is a partner in one of the Saudi petrochemical ventures.

Kuwait warns EEC

Meanwhile, Kuwait has warned the EEC not to apply "unfair" tariffs on Gulf petrochemical exports. Abdel Baqi al-Nouri, the chairman of the Petroleum Industries Corporation (PIC), said the Gulf states imported billions of dollars of EEC goods with minimum customs' charges, and it was only "just" to demand similar treatment for Gulf products exported to Europe.

He said that PIC, which is a subsidiary of the state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) plans to increase petrochemical exports through the West German chemicals giant Hoechst, in which KPC is a shareholder.

PIC is also studying plans to build a polypropylene plant.

DECREASE IN CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, PAYMENT DELAYS DISCUSSED

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 25, 8 Oct 84 pp 10-11

[Text]

Construction contracts in Saudi Arabia rose in August from July although spending fell, according to figures published by the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco). The decline is associated with the Kingdom's falling oil revenues. This, in turn, has led some government departments to delay payments to contractors for work completed and is giving even large companies cash-flow difficulties.

The construction index rose by 3.5 to 235 (base 100 in September 1975) in August, but this was 7.1 per cent down on the same month a year earlier. The index fell sharply, by two-thirds, in the 12 months to January this year, to hit a low of 198.

The expenditure index fell to 391 in August this year (base 100 in August 1976) from 403 in July and 509 in August 1983.

The decline in spending has resulted in considerable overcapacity in the Saudi construction industry after the bonanza years of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Leading Saudi contractors have faced severe cash-flow problems. The Ali and Fahd Shobokshi Group, one of the Kingdom's largest, has asked creditor banks for a moratorium on repayments and to reschedule about \$400mn in debt.

Carlson Al-Saudia, a Saudi-Bermudan-American group, in which Prince Abdulaziz bin Fahd al-Faisal is a shareholder, has stopped work in the Kingdom and a major contract at Riyadh University on which it was working has been assigned to another company.

Some 3,000 mainly Indian and Filipino workers have been laid off and many are now in the Kingdom illegally, having lost their sponsors. In keeping with a newly-established tradition, the foreign man-

agers of the company have fled the country fearing imprisonment until the débâcle is cleared up.

Industry sources say the difficulties that have hit Shobokshi and Carlson Al-Saudia reflect in part the general problem of government delays in paying contractors. Such delays would cause problems for even the best-managed firms, they say, but in Saudi Arabia, where there has been no pressure for tight financial supervision, the delays have sometimes proved crucial.

The Saudi finance minister, Mohammed Aba al-Khail, has denied charges of government delay saying that payments are held up only when contractors fail to meet their obligations.

Industry sources say that, faced with uncertainty about oil revenues, government departments prefer to hold onto their cash. They say the authorities seem to be trying to prevent the budget deficit from growing larger. In the 12 months to April 1984, the budget deficit was on target, at \$10bn, although revenues and spending were both 17 per cent below estimates.

Industrialists say that state revenues (which are almost wholly dependent upon oil sales) can be increased in local currency terms only by devaluing — which the authorities are always reluctant to do — or by increasing oil exports, which would undermine Opec's delicate price and production structure.


As regards expenditure, major cutbacks in the state budget are no longer possible since most large capital projects have been built, or are under way, and have been paid for.

Contractors expect further cash-flow problems and bankruptcies if payment delays continue into next year.

AIRLINE'S PERFORMANCE DISCUSSED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 37, Sep 84
pp 50-51

[Text]

 Saudia continues to rate as one of the world's fastest growing airlines. In March this year, the airline took delivery of the first of 11 Airbus A300-600 aircraft ordered from the European consortium Airbus Industrie, of Toulouse, France. When the order is completed later this year, the airline will have a total of 92 aircraft in its fleet, ranging from Grumman Gulfstream G-III business-charter jets through Boeing 707s and 737s, Douglas DC-8s and L-1011 TriStars to Boeing 747 jumbos.

Intended for use on Saudia's domestic and Middle Eastern routes, the new Airbus A300-600s will replace less fuel-efficient Boeing 707s and release several of the airline's longer-range L-1011 TriStars for use on its international routes, in addition to its special Hajj service.

Since its inception in 1945, Saudi Arabian Airlines has sustained a record of growth unequalled by any of the world's major airlines. The purchase of 11 new aircraft suggests that this pattern is set to continue.

According to figures given in Saudia's recently published 1983 annual report, last year a total of 11.4 million passengers were carried on its domestic and international routes — a figure which places Saudia well up among the top 20 IATA-member airlines — while operating revenues of SR7bn have led to a turnaround from a loss of SR405m in 1982 to an operating profit of SR75m in 1983.

Other figures given in the report show equally healthy growth. Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKs) and Revenue Tonne Kilometres (RTKs), the two main

indices of an airline's operating performance, have both increased by significant amounts — 19 per cent and 18 per cent respectively. While the total number of passengers boarded increased by 11 per cent, freight kilograms boarded increased by no less than 23 per cent to a total of 171 million kilograms for the year. The passenger load factor, another key indicator of operational efficiency, improved from 63 per cent to 65 per cent.

Saudia first reached the one million mark in the number of passengers carried annually in 1973. With last year's passenger total standing at more than 11 million, passenger traffic during the last decade has increased on average approximately 27 per cent each year. In a country where average incomes are high, where distances between towns and cities are great and where government subsidies allow for reduced domestic fares, it is not surprising that the bulk of the airline's passenger traffic is carried on its internal routes. Of the 11.4 million passengers carried in 1983, 8.3 million were carried on the domestic network, 73 per cent of the airline's system-wide traffic.

Saudia's international service now links 45 major cities in 39 countries, while its domestic service extends to 23 towns and cities within Saudi Arabia. During the last two years, Saudia's international network has been expanded mainly in Asia and the Far East. In addition to its previously existing service to Karachi, Delhi, Bombay, Dhaka and Bangkok, new routes have now been established to Colombo, Islamabad, Singapore, Manila and Seoul, capital cities of countries whose nationals

make up the bulk of Saudi Arabia's large expatriate work-force.

Carrier officials remain optimistic that the airline can continue to increase the volume of passenger traffic, despite a number of inhibiting factors within the industry itself and in the general economic setting. The recent slowdown in Saudi Arabian oil revenues, for example, can be expected to constrain both domestic and international traffic. Airline spokesmen are quick to point out, however, that there has been no sign as yet of this being the case.

The continuing political conflicts in the Middle East, in particular the Iran-Iraq war and the turmoil in Lebanon, have understandably led to a drop in traffic in the region. Another concern for the airline, however, is the increasing competition from other carriers, especially now that foreign carriers are permitted to fly to the capital city, Riyadh — a policy that was implemented to coincide with the opening of the new international airport in Riyadh last December.

Recent measures adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council to open up trade and stimulate cooperative economic development within the region have likewise resulted in increased competition from neighbouring Middle Eastern airlines. More worrying still, however, is the growing disregard by foreign airlines for the tariff regulations laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Saudia, unlike many of its rivals, has taken a firm stand on upholding IATA approved rates and practices, with the result that its competitiveness is being seriously undermined by airlines that take a more pragmatic approach to the question of malpractices and unauthorised discounting.

Reviewing Saudia's recent performance, the airline's chief executive, Director General Captain Ahmed Mattar, points to the fact that the growth recorded in 1983's figures has been achieved without a corresponding increase in either manpower or operating costs. Improved efficiency, he explains, has resulted from a stringent cost reduction programme introduced early in 1983.

Mattar, who still puts in the necessary flying hours to keep up his B-747 pilot rating, heads an operation which employed a modest 4,500 people ten years ago to a total of 23,356 today. While Saudia's rapid expansion continues to keep pace with Saudi Arabia's development, Mattar's

concern is to ensure that standards of service throughout the airline are not affected. To judge from last year's record for despatch reliability, Saudia has little cause for concern in this regard. With 94 percent of its flights (which average 300 a day) departing on time, Saudia can claim to equal and even better many of the world's most experienced and sophisticated airlines in terms of reliability.

Saudia has relied heavily on the support of expatriates to accomplish its ambitious objectives. However, in line with government policy laid out in the latest five-year plan, Saudia places great emphasis on the training of its personnel, with the ultimate goal being total "Saudisation." As Mattar says, "the importance of manpower development to the future of the airline cannot be over-emphasised." He adds that despite the continued expansion of Saudia's operations, "the proportion of well-qualified Saudi staff is rising steadily throughout the Corporation." In support

of this statement, Mattar cites the fact that 57 per cent of Saudia's flight crew of over 900 are Saudi nationals, while the proportion of Saudi first officers is now as high as 85 per cent.

Saudia's comprehensive training programmes, administered at its Jeddah base for both new recruits and current employees, earned the airline a World Aerospace Education Award in 1983. In addition to its in-house training, Saudia provides generous funding for the training of personnel overseas, especially those entering technical areas requiring Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification. Well over a thousand Saudia trainees are currently attending technical courses in the United States, whereas last year alone 440 newly qualified technicians returned from the US to take up employment in the airline's technical services division.

Along with its Saudisation goal, which in its technical division is targeted for the end of the decade, another of Saudia's key objectives is to achieve technical self-sufficiency. Already this ambition looks close to being achieved. Saudia now has the capability of carrying out all major maintenance work on its entire scheduled-service fleet, including major airframe overhauls, known as "D" checks, on its L-1011, B-737 and B-747 fleet. And with the opening of a new SR24m engine-overhaul workshop last year, Saudia now carries out major overhauls on the Rolls-Royce RB-211 engines used on its TriStar and B-747 aircraft.

The most recent extension of Saudia's in-house maintenance capability, however, is a new engine test cell which opened in March. One of the largest such facilities in the world, the cell will be used to test the full range of jet engines used on Saudia's narrow-body and wide-body fleets, including the Pratt & Whitney JT9D engines that power the new Airbus A300-600s.

CSO: 4400/20

SYRIAN CP GREETES SED CC ON GDR ANNIVERSARY

AU131525 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 10 Oct 84 p 10

[Greetings message from Central Committee of Syrian Communist Party to SED Central Committee on GDR National Day]

[Text] SED Central Committee:

The Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party conveys the most cordial and sincere congratulations on the 35th anniversary of the GDR to you and to all citizens of your country.

The proclamation of the peace-loving GDR 35 years ago was a significant historic event for the German people, for the peoples of Europe and the world. For the first time in the history of the German people a German state was established that supports the slogans of peace, and fraternity and friendship among peoples, struggles against aggression and expansion, has entered into relations of friendship and a firm alliance with the Soviet Union and the states of the socialist community, and that supports the liberation struggle of the peoples. All of this was implemented thanks to the heroic struggle of the German communists and democrats, above all, thanks to the struggle of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the physical sacrifices they have made and thanks to the power of the courageous Red Army that completely defeated Hitler and the Nazi regime.

In a historically short period the GDR has achieved great successes in economic and social construction, in the development of agriculture, and in increasing the living standard of the people, has created a German culture with humanistic contents and has contributed to developing a socialist German nation. The GDR represents an important pillar of peace. It has taken a practical and constructive attitude toward securing peace and security in Europe, and has declared its full support for all proposals submitted by the Soviet Union for warding off the danger of a destructive nuclear war of aggression--for which American imperialism and the Reagan administration are preparing--and in particular, for rejecting the deployment of intermediate-range Pershing and Cruise missiles in a number of states of Western Europe, among them, the FRG.

The Syrian communists, all patriots and progressive forces in Syria welcome the attitude which the GDR and the SED have declared in supporting the national anti-imperialist policy pursued by Syria as well as the struggle of the Palestinian people for their legitimate rights, including their right to return, the right to self-determination and to set up an independent national state under the leadership of the PLO, their only legitimate representative, and the struggle of the Arab national liberation movement against imperialism, in particular, American imperialism, and against the aggressiveness of Israel, for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and against reaction.

We express our gratitude for all the support granted to our people and our country in building our industry, in developing technical and cultural capacities, and in strengthening the power of our country for the struggle against the imperialist-Zionist aggression.

There are firm relations of friendship between our two parties based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. On this occasion we express our certainty that these relations will continue to strengthen and deepen to the benefit of our peoples and in the interest of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and in the interest of world peace.

Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party.

CSO: 4400/24

IRRIGATION MINISTER DISCUSSES YARMUK RIVER PROJECTS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 19 Aug 84 p 3

[Article by Muhammad 'Id Musa: "Irrigation Minister Discusses Water Project Obstacles, Makes Field Inspection of Implementation Site"]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani, the minister of irrigation, accompanied by a technical delegation, visited the Governorate of Dar'a, for the purpose of inspecting the irrigation projects site and the water dams and to make a field follow-up on the stages of implementation and the difficulties that obstruct this implementation.

As soon as he arrived in the governorate, he held a working meeting with Muhammad Mustafa Miru, the governor of Dar'a. The meeting was attended by the following: Comrade Engineer 'Abdallah al-Sirhan, chief of the farmers' branch office; Barakat Hadid, the minister's assistant; Dr Nazzar al-Mir, the director of irrigation; Salah Qurah Damur, the director of dams; Riyadh Sa'd-al-Din, the director of planning, irrigation and agriculture on the State Planning Board; Eng 'Abd-al-Karim al-Ahmad, director of technical services in the governorate of Dar'a; Eng 'Imad Khuri, director of the Irrigation Installations Company's branch; Eng Zuhayr al-Khatib, director of the branches of irrigation and land reclamation in the southern district; and other engineers and technicians.

At the outset of the meeting, the governor of Dar'a welcomed the minister and his accompanying delegation. He referred to the importance of the visit to overcome all the concerns with regard to irrigation and to make progress in implementing the projects.

The minister then emphasized that this visit and the field inspection of the irrigation projects would translate the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad to utilize every drop of water in our country.

After that, there was a comprehensive review of the irrigation projects in the governorate, both old and new, through the briefing that Eng 'Abd-al-Karim al-Ahmad, the director of technical services, presented. He explained the uses for all the projects, led by the Yarmuk irrigation project, with its three canals and benefiting territory.

He then reviewed the stages of utilizing the storage dams and their canal networks, along with the acreage that they irrigate.

He also gave an explanation of the location of water supplies in all the projects, the water sources that feed the, and everything pertaining to artesian wells and their effect on water sources. He clarified the requirements of the old projects, in terms of support, maintenance of the networks and canals, with the renewal of some of them, the dredging of sediment in the lakes, and the construction of roads between the dams.

Accomplishments in the Scheduled Projects

He then reviewed the work and accomplishments in the projects, through actual implementation, in light of the authorized plan, and the projects required for the Irrigation Installations Company, as well as the decisions that were made in the meeting held the middle of last year in the office of the governor of Dar'a concerning the irrigation projects and their requirements.

These included implementation of the Shaykh Meskin Dam;s irrigation network to irrigate 1300 hectares. It is 40 km long, and will be completed at the end of this year. The second stage of the Dar'a Dam irrigation network is 15 km long to irrigate 450 hectares, and also will be completed before the end of this year. The Shaykh Maskin Dam irrigation network will be 25 km long to irrigate 650 hectares, and the Tafas Dam irrigation network will be 20 km and will irrigate 500 hectares of land in Tafas and Jallin. The contract has been signed and they will be built within 24 months.

The Eastern al-Fariyah Dam irrigation network is 10 km long and will irrigate 250 hectares. It will be completed within 18 months. Eng 'Imad Khuri, director of the branch of the State Company for Irrigation Installations, who presented this information, emphasized that implementation will be in accordance with the contracts ratified with the branch of his company.

Governorate's Memorandum About the Concerns of the Irrigation Projects

Muhammad Mustafa Miru, the governor of Dar'a, reviewed the content of the memorandum prepared concerning the concerns of the irrigation projects in the governorate, and the steps that must be taken to overcome these difficulties.

Regarding irrigation networks being utilized:

They are the three Yarmuk irrigation networks (al-Sariya, Ibta', and the Dar'a Dam). It has been observed recently that the springs that feed these networks are short of the designed abundance, due to the continued use of part of the al-Muzayrib, al-Sakhinah and Shaykh Maskin springs for drinking water.

There is an increase in the digging of wells in the Yarmuk Basin area, which has caused a decrease in feeding the springs of the basin. This requires reconsidering the irrigation system and bolstering the networks with other sources of water.

The governor proposed forming a technical committee to evaluate the irrigation projects being used in the governorate and offering appropriate solutions for them, since the shortfall in the three irrigation networks is about 900 liters per second.

During the present irrigation season, large shortfalls were evident in the supplies required to cover the water needs of the three networks.

The memorandum pointed out that the Ministry of Agriculture, in its agricultural plan, is asking for an increase of 169 percent in the supply load. Note that the actual fact of the available supplies is enough for 113 percent of these crops, i.e., a shortfall of 56 percent of the total irrigated land is without allocations, according to the water requirements of each crop in the agricultural plan.

He proposed covering the shortfall with water from the Zayzun spring and lower Tel Al-Ash'ri, since 500 liters per second could be supplied to reinforce the central and upper canals from the surplus of those springs, which comes surging down the wadi without being used.

Dams and the Required Roads

The memorandum stressed the storage dams' need for roads to give access to them, a matter of some 3600 km. They include the al-Ghaziyah Dam, the Tasil Dam, the Western Tafas Dam and the Dar'a Dam, in addition to the Shaykh Maskin Dam.

The irrigation networks also require agricultural service roads to connect them with the main roads and the centers of irrigation, a distance of 35 km.

The New Dams

The memorandum referred to the technical studies concerning the new dams that are still not completed, including the Upper Yarmuk project and the side canal between the Ghadir al-Bustan Dam and the Shaykh Maskin Dam, the Wadi Abu al-Khanafis project, regulating the flow of the Wadi al-Zaydi and the two dams at Big and Little al-Batm in the district of al-Samakhiyat.

Regarding Wells

An increase in applications for permits to drill wells, and an increase in the withdrawal of subterranean water, have been noted in the Yarmuk Basin. This has resulted in a decrease in feeding.

Regarding the Environment and Preventing Pollution

The governor stated that the increase in sediment in the lakes was over the permissible limit, which has led to a pollution of the springs and a closing of feeder areas. He proposed dredging the lakes and improving the flow of the springs.

Regarding the Plan to Use the Yarmuk Basin

The Volgograd Institute in the Soviet Union conducted a comprehensive study of the Yarmuk Basin and the three governorates of Dar'a, al-Qunaytirah and al-Suwayda'. It proposed translating the plan to use the Yarmuk Basin into implementation stages, which will include all phases of irrigation, agriculture and services.

The Project to Develop the Yarmuk Valley

The memorandum referred to some 600 hectares in the Wadi al-Raqqad between the altitudes of 80 and 250, where the climatic and environmental conditions are similar in this valley.

Therefore, there was a proposal to annex this acreage to the early vegetable project in the Yarmuk valley. The memorandum requested that a drilling rig be up at the disposal of the Directorate of the Southern District to drill some wells to bolster the upper and lower networks in the Yarmuk District in order to cover the irrigated ground located at the end of these networks, which are in need of water.

Important Decisions Concerning Irrigation

After exhaustive discussion about the content of this memorandum, it was decided:

To replace the lower Yarmuk network, with implementation beginning this month.

To renew the al-Sariya network and to prepare its contract for signing with the Irrigation Installations Company next month.

To pursue ratification of the Upper Yarmuk project and to give the implementation order to the Irrigation Company, starting the first part of next month.

To regulate the flow of the Wadi Aby al-Khanafis, and to build a dam on it next year.

To construct the side canal between al-Harir and the Wadi al-Raqqad.

To award contracts for the construction of irrigation networks for the al-Ghaziya, Tasil and the Western Tafas dams.

To overhaul the existing side dams on the Wadi al-Zaydi and dredge the Abu al-Saqurah canal. Study the possibility of building the Basri and Kharab al-Shahm dams.

To conduct studies and the required repairs on the al-Muta'ibiyah, 'Uthman and Ibtal dams, along with regulating the flow of the Wadi al-Zaydi.

To build a road between Tasil and Shaykh Maskin, up to the main Dar'a-Damascus road.

To start construction of the 'Ashtirah and al-Katibah dams in the 10th month of this year.

To consider the implementation program for the early citrus and vegetable project in the Yarmuk Valley, in accordance with the priorities that enter into each district over a 4-year cycle.

To contract for the construction of the irrigation networks that will irrigate the land in the (Kawiya Bal-Raha) area. This should be done the first part of next month.

To complete the studies required for the Big and Small al-Batm dams, so that they can be built next year.

To build roads connecting all the dams with the main roads, and to build agricultural roads for the new and currently operating networks.

To deal with the matter of pollution, and to establish a program to dredge the lakes.

To task the directorate of the Southern District Branch of Irrigation and Land Reclamation to study the possibility of exploiting the Wadi al-Raqqad and to cultivate the early vegetable and citrus fruits and incorporating it into the Yarmuk project.

To form a committee to study the Yarmuk water basin, the wells that have been drilled and the extent of their effect on the basin, and to evaluate the amounts of water that can be used from them for irrigation. It would also study supplying the irrigation networks with the surplus of the Zayzun and al-Ash'ari springs and other sources of water.

Field Trip to the Irrigation Projects and the Wadi Yarmuk

Then the minister, the governor, the chief of the farmers' branch office, the technical, administrative and fiscal cadres and the projects' executive authorities went to inspect the work on the dams, the irrigation networks and the canals associated with them. Their tour also included the Wadi Yarmuk where they inspected the progress on land reclamation and the first stage of the early citrus fruit and vegetable project, as well as the success that has been enjoyed in the experiments on cultivating bananas, within the framework of this project. The minister instructed that all roads be constructed at the expense of the project.

TARTUS DRINKING WATER PROJECTS BENEFIT 300 VILLAGES

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 19 Aug 84 p 3

[Article: "Drinking Water Projects Currently Being Implemented at a Cost of 100 Million Pounds To Benefit 300 Villages"]

[Text] Water is a basic requirement in the life of man, its availability is a pressing necessity and getting it to the citizens in a pure form is a goal which must be continued. With regard to our country in general, and the governorate of Tartus in particular, the plans in this field are aimed at supplying pure, filtered water to every house in the governorate, no matter how far or remote.

In order to shed more light on the facts and importance of the water projects in the governorate of Tartus, TISHRIN met with Eng Ahmad Mu'alla the director of technical services, who said:

"Within the governorate, there are completed water projects and new projects under implementation. The most important of these projects are:

The al-Dhirun project, which has been built, but the mechanical equipment contracted for with the Water Company has not yet arrived. This project will provide water for 56 villages with a population of 40,000. Its cost amounts to 12 million Syrian pounds.

The al-Baghlah project, which will provide water to 23 villages at a cost of 8 million pounds. It is being delayed due to a lack of water pipes.

The Na'mu al-Jurd project, which will supply 13 villages at a cost of 8 million pounds.

The Shaykh Hasan spring project in the al-Mashta area is under implementation. It is about 80 percent completed and will supply water to 16 villages and will be ready for use this year.

The al-Haj Hasan Bridge project, which will bring water to 26 villages. It is in the final stages of completion and equipping and will be ready for use within 2 months.

There are two projects that have been completed this year. One is the Balghunis project and the other is the Karm Biram project, at a cost of about 4 million pounds. Another project that has been carried out is the 'Akkar wells project, which will supply water to 14 villages in al-Sahl. They will be operational this year, and the cost will be about 14 million pounds.

When all these projects become operational, the governorate will have made good progress in the field of bringing water to every citizen.

The new projects are:

The Bayt al-Wadi project, costing 10 million pounds to supply 16 villages, has 80 percent of its first stage completed.

The Kafr Juwaya-'Ayn al-Tinah project, costing 2 million pounds.

The project to irrigate Arwad from the al-Sinn River, costing 9 million pounds. Work has been started on it by a branch of Military Housing.

The al-Dulbah project, with its cost reaching 17 million pounds for its first stage. The final costs will reach 30 million pounds. It will supply 54 villages with water.

The al-Hamidiyah and al-Mantar project, costing 7 million pounds.

The Tafri'ah Judaytah project.

The total value of the projects referred to is about 100 million Syrian pounds and will supply more than 30 villages with water.

With regard to the obstacles faced, the director of technical services mentioned that during implementation of the water projects, the directorate faced difficulties in obtaining cast iron water pipes required for the projects, especially since the governorate is mountainous and it has been proven by experience that using asbestos-coated waterpipes is unfeasible.

Some of the other difficulties are:

The difficulty of obtaining the mechanical equipment required for the projects.

The lack of iron (muzaybaq) waterpipes required for the projects.

Operational Difficulties:

The lowering of wages, which does not permit employing experienced and qualified people. Therefore, the workers in these projects do not have the experience required to operate them. This affects their serviceability.

The inability to appoint the cadre required to supervise these projects, which results in wasting water and no serious monitoring of consumption.

The solution might be to turn these projects over to the modern water organization for this purpose, especially the large projects.

7005

CSO: 4404/3

VILLAGE WATER POLLUTION REMAINS UNCORRECTED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 19 Aug 84 p 5

[Article by Samir Sarim: "Hauling Water from al-Tabibiyah Well to the Town Will End Pollution Crisis, Accompany Expansion Projects for Next Several Years"]

[Text] Our attention was attracted by some of the drivers in the TISHRIN organization, who live in the town of Darayya and who bring plastic jugs every day and fill them with drinking water.

At the outset, we thought that the matter was only emergency interruptions of water service in the town, which forced them to haul water for drinking and for use in cooking. However, when the matter went on and on, we questioned them about it. They replied that the water in the Darayya system was polluted, and that laboratory tests had proven the presence of bacteria in the water.

We did not hide our astonishment over the matter, since how can this happen so simply, allowing bacteria to be conveyed through drinking water to more than 10,000 citizens, which is the town's population.

To Darayya

We went to Darayya, and the question that was repeated in every meeting with citizens, or officials in the party branch, or the municipality or the Farmers' Association was: Do you drink Darayya's water?

Some said that they lived in Damascus and, consequently, do not drink Darayya's water. Another denies, while a third adds that he does not use it even for cooking. Most of them said that they were not personally sure, but had heard that it was polluted, in addition to the fact that it tasted bad as a result of the soil's calceous nature in that area.

Therefore, we returned with the resulting idea that perhaps Darayya was the only town in the country whose citizens do not drink its water.

Between Coming and Going

On our trip going there, we carried our astonishment regarding the pollution of drinking water. On our return, we had the results of this pollution. We had some doubt about this pollution, but the people did not want to use this water whether it was polluted or not. We had meetings with the members of the trade-union committee of the town of Darayya, the chief of the Department of Water Projects in the municipality and the comrade secretary of the party branch in the town.

What was the result of these meetings?

The Date of the Pollution Is Unknown

We asked the members of the trade-union committee when the water pollution started. We received many answers. Some of them said that it was years. Others said for 2 years. A third answer was 5 years.

We asked where the letters documenting the pollution are. They brought them.

Routine Killing of Bacteria

The first letter from the Directorate of Health in Damascus to the Governorate of Damascus stated that, pursuant to the content of circular No 95/S dated 7 July 1981, bacteriological analyses were conducted on some samples of water taken from villages of the Governorate of Damascus. They showed that the water networks in 16 towns were suspicious in terms of bacterial conditions. These included the western Darayya network and the eastern Darayya network.

The letter was dated 25 July 1982, and arrived at the governorate on 10 August 1982, reaching the municipality of Darayya on 15 August 1982. This means that it took about a month to report bacteria-polluted water! During a month, bacteria could be killed by the thousands, unless they had built up an immunity.

The letter was referred to Mechanical Engineer 'Abdallah Za'mut for action, to operate the sterilization machine continuously and in a proper fashion!

The second letter was dated 30 December 1982, and was addressed from the Governorate of Damascus to the municipality of Darayya, arriving there on 5 January 1983. It was also addressed to Mr Za'mut for action, to install the sterilization machine within 3 days of its date, subject to the required penalties in the event of negligence.

This meant that, until that date, there was no sterilization. The letter was also based on a letter of the Ministry of Construction, No 3331/74 dated 11 December 1982 and, consequently, its arrival from the ministry to the town, through the governorate, had taken about a month! There were many villages drinking polluted water, and their names were reported in that very letter.

The Water Was Always Polluted

These letters reported a result, which was that analyses that were conducted at different times proved that the water was polluted by bacteria.

This problem was in addition to the problem of the lime, whose percentage in the water was increasing. This causes illnesses in gums, teeth, digestive difficulties and kidney inflammations.

As we were told by Barakat al-Haw, a member of the trade-union committee and the network supervisor, the doctors are rejoicing, and especially the dentists, whose clinics are always crowded.

In addition to that, buying water from itinerant sellers, who claim that they bring it from Damascus, is very expensive. Brother al-Haw said that the cost of a 20-liter can was 2 Syrian pounds. Consequently, a cubic meter would cost 96 Syrian pounds, which would overstrain any family's budget, especially since there are always teeth, stomach and intestinal ailments.

It is well known that the town is supplied by 12 artesian wells.

The Latest Laboratory Analyses

As for the latest analysis made on the water, it was conducted on 9 June 1984, by the 'Ayn al-Fijah Water Company. The results were as follows:

Well No 6: Quantitative count of bacteria, 200 percent per milligram; bacillus, 20 percent.

Result: From the bacterial point of view, the water is considered unfit for human consumption, unless sterilized.

Well No 8: Quantitative count of bacteria, 225 percent per milligram; bacillus, 80 percent per milligram.

Result: From the bacterial point of view, the water is considered unfit for human consumption, unless sterilized.

Well No 9: The quantitative bacteria count was 1500 percent per milligram; bacillus, not present.

Result: This water requires sterilization before use.

Well No 10: Quantitative bacteria count, 5000 percent per milligram; bacillus, 2500 percent per milligram.

Result: Unfit for human consumption, unless sterilized.

These samples were taken directly from the well. Analyses conducted on the same date on this water after sterilization, and on water taken from storage, proved it to be drinkable.

The analysis prior to this one was conducted on 17 October 1983, also in the laboratory of the 'Ayn al-Fijah Water Company. It showed the presence of bacteria in the following wells, with the percentage per milligram beside the name of the well:

Well No 2--60 percent
Well No 3--20 percent
Well No 4--80 percent
Well No 5--42 percent
Well No 6--26 percent
Well No 8--180 percent
Well No 9--128 percent
Well No 10--14 percent
Well No 11--100 percent

Effluvial Water and the al-Dayrani River

By comparing the two analyses, one notes, in addition to the presence of bacteria, a large disparity in the quantities, especially in wells No's 9 and 10, since the percentage increased from 128 to 1500 with respect to well No 9, and from 14 to 5000 percent in well No 10.

Technical assistant 'Abdullah Za'mut, and the chairman and members of the trade-union committee, attribute that to:

1. The close proximity of the well to the public sewer network.
2. The well's closeness also to the eastern al-Dayrani River, a tributary of the Barada River, since the effluence of al-Muwasah and Children's Hospitals and the university housing area are dumped into it. Moreover, some of the effluence empties into the al-'Awaj River. Additionally, the al-Dayrani River irrigates Darayya's agricultural land.

They rely for their explanation on the opinion of the director of the laboratory of the 'Ayn al-Fijah State Water Company, who told them this 2 months ago. However, no one has done anything about this constant danger and the continual source of the pollution.

The Solution

Along with the members of the trade-union committee, we discussed the matter of stopping pumping on wells No 9 and 10. They indicated that this would give the municipality a water crisis.

We inquired as to whether they had asked the authorities concerned in the Ministry of Health and the governorate to intervene. They said that they had requested the Ministry of Health to send a technician to administer

the chlorine. They were sent instructions, and they said that they had implemented them. We turned to the matter of the future. They stressed that the solution was to haul water from al-Tabibiyah spring to the town. It is clean and good-tasting. There are party and farmer assurances on using the water from this spring.

As for now, the only solution is to depend on chlorine.

However, chlorine might not always be available. This is what we observed on Saturday, 11 July 1984, since the sterilization which is supposed to be continuous had been halted since Thursday 9 July. The pollution will spread through the system, and the network itself might become a suitable climate for the growth of bacteria. With that, it would be useless to sterilize the storage water.

'Abdallah Za'mut said that it was the first time that the chlorine had been delayed, and he went on to say that sometimes he would go to Hims to get it.

He added: "I asked to talk to Hims at 1000 in the morning" At that time, it was about 1300, but the call had not yet come." He wanted to talk with the authorities concerned about supplying him with the chlorine expected to arrive today!

In the Party Branch

In the party branch, we met with Comrade Muhammad al-'Azb, who confirmed the presence of pollution. He added that sterilization was continuous, but he does not drink Darayya's water. He buys water, just like the rest of the citizens.

Later, we talked with him about the 'Ayn al-Tabibiyah water. He said: "'Ayn al-Tabibiyah is about 20 kms from Darayya. It is fit to drink, or rather similar to the al-Fijah spring water. It pours into the al-'Awaj River, which irrigates the lands of Darayya, al-Ashrafiyah, al-Mu'addamiyah, Sahnayya and al-Judaydah. As for the power of drawing off the well, it is good. Ideally utilized, it will be sufficient to supply those areas with drinking water for the next 10 years.

"A preliminary study was sent through the leadership of the rural Damascus branch of the party to the Governorate of Damascus more than a year ago, but due to a lack of resources, the matter was not studied, despite the emphasis by a series of party conferences on this matter, as well as by some members of the People's Assembly, and despite the pledge of the governorate's municipalities to cover the costs.

"We now need to drill five new wells every year, and the expenses of hauling water from the al-Tabibiyah spring does not equal what could be spent on these wells, even though they are to cover future needs.

"That means that by material standards, the project is profitable, and by humanitarian standards, it is very profitable."

He concluded by saying, "Our role is limited to stressing in party meetings that this project should be carried out."

No Need for Results

At the conclusion of this matter, I do not believe that we need to enumerate the results of our trip to Darayya; they are many. Perhaps the most important is clarifying the negligence in supplying pure water to the citizens. This is a necessity that only the need for air surpasses.

7005

CSO: 4404/3

SOVIETS INCREASE TROOPS 'TO SEAL BORDER WITH PAKISTAN'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi (Dispatches)--The Soviet Union reportedly has sent 35,000 more troops to Afghanistan--bringing the total to about 140,000 in an apparent bid to seal the border with Pakistan, a Western diplomat said yesterday.

"According to one version of the reports," the diplomat said, "part of the new addition was flown directly to Kandahar and another went to Paktia," both provinces of high resistance activity close to Pakistan.

She said the new Soviet troops in Kandahar, in the south, and Paktia, near Kabul were "apparently part of an effort to seal the border with Pakistan," where anti-government guerillas obtain supplies and assemble for raids into Afghanistan.

The Western diplomat attributed the report of troop increases to other "diplomatic sources" but did not further identify them.

These sources, based in the Afghan capital of Kabul, said, "in October, a considerable number of additional Soviet troops arrived in Afghanistan," the Western diplomat said.

"Some of the sources now claim that Soviet troops in the country now number about 140,000," the diplomat said.

Islamic guerillas, estimated to number up to 200,000 are fighting to oust the Communist Kabul government and expel Soviet forces that invaded Afghanistan in December 1979.

Another report said a series of rocket attacks shook the Afghan capital of Kabul this month even as the occupying Soviets beefed up measures to ensure the security of the city from the guerillas, Western diplomatic sources said here yesterday.

Seven rockets fell in a single day last Tuesday in the Wazir Ahmed Khan area of Kabul, which has offices that of Radio Afghanistan, a government guest house and homes of high-ranking Afghan officials.

Multiple sources told Western diplomats that two Afghan soldiers on guard duty outside the guest house were killed in the attack.

According to one diplomatic source, one rocket landed in the garden of a German teacher. There were no reports of any casualties.

Rocket attacks were also reported on October 6 on a Soviet hospital and on October 1 on the building housing the Ministry of Defence. Two Afghan soldiers were said to have been injured.

The sources said security had been increased even more on the outskirts of the capital and a large cache of rockets was discovered in house to house searches by the Soviets in the Shewaki area of the city.

There were conflicting reports of a Soviet truce offer to guerilla leader Ahmed Shah Massoud in Panjshir Valley and the latter's rejection of the offer.

An IRNA report adds that Moslem Afghan guerillas attacked a large convoy of Soviet and government forces travelling from the city of Ghazni to Pakti Province.

CSO: 4600/55

SOVIET OFFICERS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN KABUL

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, (IRNA) — Two Soviet officers were killed in a Kabul street a fortnight ago as they were on a routine patrol of part of the city, according to Afghan Moslem militants in New Delhi.

The Soviet Forces reportedly rained bullets at a city minibus killing and wounding an unidentified number of its passengers in revenge for the killing.

In related news in a protest gesture against the Soviet occupying forces, bereaved relatives of a number of people killed by the Soviet Forces in a mass killing at Shiuki Village of Afghanistan in September, brought the bodies of their dead relatives in front of Karmal's office and exposed them to the public in a protest gesture against the ruling government in Kabul this week.

Elsewhere in Baba-Abdul of Shindand south of Herat on Wednesday armed Moslem revolutionaries and members of the Mujahideen raided a column of government forces in Herat Province killing 18 government soldiers and two officers.

In the encounter between the government forces and Moslem revolutionaries which lasted about four hours the Moslem Mujahideen also knocked off five personnel carriers, and seized 40 light fire arms, two automatic guns, one anti-aircraft gun, two mortar launchers and also a big haul of food and provisions. Twenty two government soldiers surrendered to the Moslem militants and turned in their weapons to them. One member of the Mujahideen was martyred during the operations.

CSO: 4600/54

ARAB OFFICIALS COMMENT ON AFGHAN CRISIS

GF241302 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 84 p 8

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 2--The foreign minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber, has said that the crisis in Afghanistan is not restricted to that country but it has threatened security and stability of Pakistan's border areas.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly session in New York recently Shaykh Sabah said the people of Afghanistan have endured a regime backed by foreign forces for the past four years.

He said the Afghan refugees should be helped to return home so that they could determine their destiny in the way they see fit, after the foreign forces are withdrawn from their country.

Shaykh Sabah said while big international efforts have been made to alleviate the problems of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, all parties concerned should stop interfering in the internal affairs of that country.

Local newspapers have hailed Kuwait's stand on Afghanistan. The Arabic daily "AL-WATAN" said his speech explained Kuwait's attitude towards the important issue of Afghanistan.

The paper said Shaykh Sabah has stressed that the people of Afghanistan should be left alone to determine their own future. The paper added that Kuwait's foreign minister called on all parties to facilitate the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland while ceasing interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Qatari foreign minister, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani, in his speech at the General Assembly also urged the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

CSO: 4600/46

MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY KILL 100 AFGHAN TROOPS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Tues.

Mujahids killed 100 Afghan Government troops in orchestrated attacks in and around the capital of Kabul, Western diplomats said here today.

The attacks were viewed as an escalation of a wave of bombings and rocketings that began three weeks ago and were said by some diplomatic observers to be the biggest Mujahidin effort in at least a year.

Independent verification of the reports by two separate Western embassies was impossible to obtain. The diplomats briefed reporters under briefing rules of anonymity.

According to the diplomats, the major action got under way on Sept 24, around the Soviet garrison at Kabul's Bala Hissar Fort during a firefight that lasted two hours. Mujahids overran defences, lobbed mortar shells at the encampment and killed 60 Afghan soldiers.

Afghan and Soviet tanks returned fire and reinforcements were called in while separate attacks were mounted on a textile factory, Kabul Airport and a Soviet residential complex.

Firefights and rocketings continued most nights. Another 60 Afghan troops were reported killed when the Mujahids overran another military outpost near the Soviet garrison two days later.

CSO: 4600/51

RESISTANCE LEADER CALLS FOR MORE SUPPLIES, WEAPONS

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD Pakistan (Dispatches)- Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal regime in Afghanistan claimed Thursday to have killed 54 guerillas Faryab Province (state) in northwestern part of the country in military operations.

The state-owned Radio Kabul, monitored here, said a number of weapons, including rocket launchers, machine guns, small arms as well as ammunition were seized.

The regime also claimed to have destroyed four guerilla hideouts, but the newscast did not identify the areas or villages where the action took place.

An Afghan guerilla spokesman however said Wednesday the resistances now control more than 80 percent of Afghanistan's territory but they need new weapons to counter a shift in Soviet offensive tactics.

Fazle Akbar, head of the Afghan Information and Documentation Center in the nor-

thern Pakistani city of Peshawar, near the Afghan border, appealed for "clothing, medicine, food and weapons" for Afghanistan.

"More than 80 percent of Afghan territory is free and controlled by the Mujahideen (freedom fighters)," he said. "To free the remaining 20 percent needs more help and more effective weapons."

Akbar, who said his brother commands a guerilla force in Kunar Province, criticized US policy in Afghanistan, which was invaded by the Soviet Union in December 1979.

"The people of Afghanistan believe the United States may not be sincere in its claim to defend Human Rights democracy and peace" said Akbar who is in Washington on a weeklong visit.

Akbar said the United States sends weapons to "those parts of the world where there is a possibility of a threat by the Russians," but Afghan resistance - the only group now

fighting the Soviets directly - receive little concrete US support.

Akbar, who was director of state-owned Radio Kabul before Moscow installed President Babrak Karmal in Kabul, said the guerillas' most urgent need was for anti-aircraft weapons to counter a new Soviet campaign of high altitude bombing.

"The Russians have bought in new and modern weapons against which we cannot defend ourselves... using mainly air forces" such as the Soviet-built TU-16 strategic bomber and long-range surface-to-surface missiles

CSO: 4600/53

ANALYST EXPLAINS GANDHI CABINET APPOINTMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Sep 84 p 8

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 6.

As a special gesture, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has extended the term of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, by four months till the end of January, 1985, in appreciation of his good work in this difficult post.

Mr. Rasgotra, who is already on an extension, was due to retire at the end of this month, but he would now continue till the formation of the next Government after the parliamentary elections.

The Prime Minister has also decided that Mr. Romesh Bhandari, Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, will be the Foreign Secretary after Mr. Rasgotra's retirement. It is not customary to finalise the name of the successor several months before the post has fallen vacant, but Mrs. Gandhi has done so to set at rest all speculation about it.

West Asia specialist: As head of the Economic Division and a specialist on West Asia, Mr. Bhandari has done very well, and the Prime Minister evidently felt that it would be more appropriate to decide now itself that he would succeed Mr. Rasgotra.

Mr. Bhandari will have 14 months left for retirement after he takes over as Foreign Secretary on February 1, 1985, but he is likely to get at least an year's extension, if not longer, depending on the circumstances prevailing at that time.

The next one in the line of succession to this key post is Mr. N. Krishnan, Permanent Representative to the U.N. at present, who is due to retire at the end of October, 1986, and he might also get an extension if Mr. Bhandari is asked to continue for another year after his retirement.

The one thereafter will be Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, now Ambassador to China, who will

go on till June, 1988, before his retirement. He will probably succeed Mr. Bhandari if for some reason the Government decides to offer Mr. Krishnan some other assignment after the completion of his present tenure at the U.N. in view of his expertise on multilateral diplomacy and non-aligned movement.

Natwar to enter politics: The other Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, is due to resign from the Foreign Service and enter politics shortly to contest for a Lok Sabha seat from his home State of Rajasthan as a Congress (I) candidate. He will give up his present job on his return from China later this month after the fifth round of Sino-Indian talks on the border problem.

The Government is thinking of appointing Mr. Venkateswaran as one of the Secretaries in the Ministry after Mr. Natwar Singh's resignation. In that case, he might take some time to return from China to take up his new assignment. Another Secretary will have to be appointed when Mr. Rasgotra relinquishes charge at the end of January.

A couple of senior diplomatic appointments will have to be finalised to fill the vacancies in Beijing and in Tokyo when Mr. K. P. S. Menon moves to Paris in the place of Mr. Narendra Singh who retires early next year.

Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, the Air Chief who just retired is also being considered for a diplomatic assignment.

PTI reports:

Extension for Ramanna: Dr. Raja Ramanna, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary in the Department of Atomic Energy, has been granted extension for two years.

The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet has approved the extension of his service till January 31, 1987 with effect from the date of his superannuation.

DELHI POLICY ON WEST ASIA MEETING REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Sep 84 p 6

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 9.

The idea of an international conference on West Asia under the U.N. auspices, first mooted during the Seventh Non-aligned Summit in Delhi last year, is being pursued by Egypt and Yugoslavia in close concert with India as one way of re-activating the non-aligned movement for tackling issues like the Palestine problem, the Lebanese crisis and Iran-Iraq war that are of great concern to it.

The non-aligned countries intended to press forward with this proposal in the U.N. General Assembly, after it has been discussed by the Foreign Ministers of the community when they meet in New York later this month for its annual session.

Simultaneously, they propose to convene a meeting of the eight-member non-aligned group under India's chairmanship that was set up during the last summit to help resolve the West Asian conflicts. The group consisting of India, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, PLO, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia was supposed to meet at summit-level, but so far only one official-level meeting has taken place with no follow-up action.

Superpower stands: The Soviet bloc has welcomed the idea of an international conference on West Asia, but the western powers have not displayed any comparable interest in it. The U.S. will not participate in such a conference so long as Israel is opposed to the very concept of an international effort under the U.N. auspices, which in its view would be

dominated by the non-aligned countries that are avowed supporters of the Arab cause.

The non-aligned Foreign Ministers will also explore the possibilities of other peace initiatives for bringing about a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq in which Israel has no direct involvement. Some of the non-aligned countries want India to convene an early meeting of the eight-member group, first at the level of Foreign Ministers and then at the summit-level by Heads of Governments, to keep up the momentum of their efforts to end this tragic conflict.

India's view: The thinking in Delhi is that while the non-aligned community should continue to press for a wider international conference under the U.N. auspices, with the participation of the two super-powers and their allies, it should also persevere with its endeavours to bring about a better understanding between Syria and Lebanon and the rival groups within the PLO to be able to concentrate more on compelling Israel to vacate the occupied Arab territories and meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people.

The non-aligned community is eager to take some such steps to demonstrate its continued relevance as an important factor in the preservation of international peace by upholding the rights of the victims of foreign aggression and occupation, besides functioning as an effective instrument for the settlement of bilateral disputes among member-countries by making available its good offices.

GOVERNMENT LIBERALIZES COMPUTER IMPORT RULES

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Sep 84 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 13.

The Government has liberalised the import of certain categories of computers to encourage their use by industrial establishments and other institutions.

It is also taking steps to encourage domestic production of computers by increasing production quotas permitting foreign collaboration and providing protection through enhanced customs duties on import of comparable categories of equipment.

Hitherto, industrial users in India were permitted to import computers costing not more than Rs. 5 lakhs each on payment of duty at higher rates. Now the price limit has been increased to Rs. 10 lakhs to enable users import more sophisticated computers, but on payment of higher duties to provide protection to domestic manufacturing units.

The procedures for clearance of applications for purchase of these computers as well as collaboration agreements have also been simplified to avoid inordinate delays through bureaucratic procedures. The Government is

also taking other steps to encourage existing manufacturing units to increase their production by availing of some new incentives.

Aim of current policy: The government realises that the country has lagged behind and lost many years in catching up with the latest advances in the field of electronics through restrictive practices. The current policy of liberalisation is aimed at encouraging research and development as well as manufacturing capability at various levels with increased foreign collaboration.

The country has been encountering difficulties in buying highly sophisticated computers from countries like the U.S. for use by major Indian establishments like Railways, Oil and Natural Gas Commission and other big public sector enterprises.

The supplier countries, especially the U.S. have been trying to impose stricter controls, including the right of inspection, to prevent unauthorised transfer from one establishment to another even within the country.

CSO: 4600/1041

DEFENSE TEAM TO USSR SATISFIED WITH RESULTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 9--The Soviet Union has agreed to give higher priority to the supply of a wide range of highly sophisticated weapon systems for which firm contracts have been signed or are in the process of finalisation, following the broad measure of understanding reached during the last visit of the Soviet Defence Minister, Mr Dmitri Ustinov, to Delhi. A high-level Indian delegation led by the Defence Secretary, Mr S.K. Bhatnagar, which went to Moscow last week to discuss the delivery schedules and collaboration arrangements for progressive production of the contracted equipment, returned to Delhi today, quite satisfied with the outcome of the talks with the Soviet Government.

Technical details to be discussed: The necessary technical details for sub-assembly, part manufacture and full production in stages of the updated versions of T-72 tanks, BMP combat vehicles, rocket weapons and other mechanised equipment for the Army, MIG-27 and MIG-29 fighter-bombers and AN-32 and IL-76 heavy and medium transport aircraft for the Air Force and the latest missiles, radar equipment and other paraphernalia for both surface and undersea operations by the Navy will have to be discussed by official teams dealing with different weapon systems.

R&D assistance offer: The Soviet Defence Minister had offered to assist India in research and development to help the country's defence science organisation design, test and produce its own weaponry to meet most of its requirements in due course. The Soviet Union has also agreed to cooperate in making India self-reliant in regard to its basic defence requirements, limiting imports only to the most sophisticated systems.

The Indian aspiration is to achieve a high level of self-reliance by 1990 and become almost totally independent of foreign acquisitions by the turn of the century, barring a few critical items that would take much longer to produce without some degree of foreign collaboration. The Soviet experts who are well aware of India's industrial capabilities as well as deficiencies feel that the country has the capacity to absorb the latest technologies and adapt itself to the production of highly sophisticated equipment to meet most of its defence requirements.

Extraordinarily earnest: So what has really impressed the Indian delegation was the readiness of the Soviet Government to do everything possible to help the country realise this ambition within a decade. The Soviet defence experts seemed extraordinarily earnest about their willingness to help India to the extent that would be politically acceptable to it.

The Soviet leaders no doubt, keep talking both publicly and privately about the special relationship between the two countries, but they are no longer trying to link the military supply relationship with the treaty relationship to place India under any exceptional obligation. The whole accent in Moscow these days is on the mutual beneficial aspects of the Indo-Soviet relationship by stressing the point that it had stood the test of time and proved advantageous to India's interests.

Generous response: The current Soviet policy is to respond generously to India's requests for defence cooperation in the belief that this very dependence places the country under a special obligation which needed to be buttressed with frequent references to the treaty responsibilities on either side. The Soviet Government has given up the earlier policy of deliberately dragging its feet to prolong the negotiations and delay the conclusion of defence deals to drive home the point that the Soviet Union was the only dependable source available to it.

Continuity of special relationship: Apart from keeping up the continuity of this special relationship even after the death of Brezhnev and Kosygin who pioneered it, the new Soviet leadership under Andropov and now under Mr Chernenko has gone out of its way to assure India of its consistent support by offering some of the very latest weapon systems even before these have been supplied to other Warsaw pact States. And Marshal Ustinov spoke eloquently of this Soviet attitude during his last visit to Delhi, while offering to assist India with research and development to make the country increasingly self-reliant in its defence requirements.

CSO: 4600/1034

ANALYST ON PLANNED PURCHASE OF FRENCH GUNS

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 15.

An agreement is due to be signed shortly with France for initial sale and subsequent manufacture under licence of the very latest 155 mm field artillery with a range of 35 km at an estimated total cost of over Rs. 1,500 crores to more than match the long-range howitzers that the U.S. is supplying to Pakistan.

These heavy guns in both self-propelled and towed versions will be equipped with sophisticated computerised rapid-fire mechanisms for plastering pre-determined target areas with great precision.

The French, who have designed and developed the gun, had to face stiff competition from Britain, Austria and Sweden to secure this big Indian contract, which will make it the second largest supplier of defence equipment to India after the Soviet Union. At one stage the choice seemed to narrow down to France and Sweden, but the French were able to clinch the deal with a better financial package backed by superior technology that has greatly impressed the Indian Army's artillery experts.

U.S. approached in 1980: The Government of India had initially approached the U.S. as far back as 1980 for the purchase of these heavy howitzers on cash payment. Apart from refusing to enter into any collaboration agreement for what is called co-manufacture of this gun, the Americans sought to impose totally unacceptable conditions which would have entitled Washington to suspend the sale and even

supply of ammunition at any time without assigning any reason in pursuit of its political policies or in compliance with domestic legislation.

Consequently, India gave up the idea of buying this heavy artillery from the U.S. which was partly intended to be a balancing deal to avoid the impression of total reliance on the Soviet Union. It started negotiating with other Western countries like Britain, France and Sweden with Austria also entering the arena at a later stage.

If India was obliged to look around for Western sources, it was because the Soviet Union did not have a comparable high calibre gun to meet the Indian Army's requirements in the wake of the promised U.S. supply of 155 mm howitzers to Pakistan. The Soviet artillery strategy is based on blanket fire by a bigger concentration of guns with a relatively shorter range, while Western armies place higher emphasis on precision of fire power by comparatively smaller batteries with longer range, equipped with more sophisticated firing mechanisms.

When Mr. R. Venkataraman visited France as the Defence Minister, he was told that the heavy French-built 155 mm gun could be fitted to the tracked chassis of Vijayanta tank built in Madras. But the idea was later given up for technical reasons and the self-propelled versions will be mounted on the French chassis which forms an integral part of the original design.

CSO: 4600/1043

PRESIDENT REVIEWS ISSUES ON THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF INCUMBENCY

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Oct 84 p 9

[Interview with President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on the third anniversary of his presidency; place not specified]

[Text] News section of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI:

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the confirmation of the presidency of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we asked some questions concerning the role of the president in the regime of the Islamic Republic; the successes gained during these three years; the preservation of the cultural, political, and economic independence of the country; the work of the Supreme Council for Defense; the evaluation of numerous sessions with the heads of legislative and judicial branches; the presence of the people on the scene; the foreign policy of the country and visits to friendly countries; the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations; the plan to create an Islamic common market; and the committee to support blacks in a one-hour exclusive interview. The text of this interview is as follows.

Question: Mr President, with the passage of three years since the confirmation of your presidency, please tell us your views concerning this grave responsibility, the most important duties, and the role that the president can play in the regime of the Islamic Republic.

[Answer] In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful.

In fact, the responsibility of the president in legal terms and from the standpoint of the executive duties is unrecognized, because in our Constitution, the president has a special exceptional situation compared to his counterparts in various countries and regimes.

In the existing republics of the world, in some places, the president has a ceremonial position and has no duties. Hence, such presidents are usually not elected by the people and public participation plays no role in appointing such a president. In some other places, the president is in fact in charge of everything in the regime. In other words, the president is the head of the Cabinet, the head of the government, and, in fact, plays the role of both president and prime minister. In our regime, the president heads the executive branch, is the second person after the leader in the whole of the regime of the Islamic Republic, and is in charge of regulating the relations between the three branches; nevertheless, he is part of a whole. In other words, the president has certain duties, along with other high ranking officials, and carries out those duties. At the same time, there are other organizations in the legislative, judicial, and even executive branches which do their work directly without the intervention of the president. Hence, the president in the regime of the Islamic Republic is something between the two forms I referred to earlier and, of course, it would not be bad to analyze this somewhat. In our regime, first of all, the president has a popular aspect, because he is appointed to this post by the general participation of the people, and the people feel that they themselves are electing the highest person for the executive branch, who holds the second position in the Islamic Republic. Hence, naturally, for this election they make studies and investigations and evaluate the various sides of the issue. Also, naturally, as a result of this election, they have certain expectations of their elected officials.

Therefore, the president, due to this popular aspect, has to have an active presence in the issues and general currents of the country and be involved in all aspects of the society in order to be able to respond to the expectations of the people.

Another aspect of the president is legislative and governmental, in which he has specific duties. The Constitution has determined these specific duties, the most important of which is the implementation of the Constitution, because the Constitution is the charter of the Islamic Republic. If, in fact, it is violated or neglected, undoubtedly the regime of the Islamic Republic will be misguided, since the regime of the Islamic Republic is the actual manifestation of the Constitution, and the Constitution is the written scientific and mental manifestation of the regime of the Islamic Republic. If these two do not conform to one

another, there is no doubt that the regime of the Islamic Republic will deviate from what the planners of this regime have anticipated. This does not mean that the present Constitution of the Islamic Republic is flawless. The way to correct those flaws is not to act contrary to the Constitution. On the contrary, the regime must conform to the Constitution. However, ways must be found to amend and perfect the law, should it be flawed, and this is the most important duty of the president, the procedures for which, of course, as our most fundamental problem, we will explain here.

Another responsibility of the president is to regulate the relations between the three branches, which is incorrectly termed coordination between the branches. I have even seen that this interpretation is used in its incorrect form in the statements of the officials and some of the representatives of the Majlis, whereas, according to the text of the Constitution, which is different from the concept of coordination, it is the regulation of the three branches. In other words, there are instances where the relationship between two of the three branches or all three branches becomes disrupted. An authority is needed to resolve the problems. This does not mean that one of these two branches is openly acting contrary to its lawful duties, but supposing that in determining the duties of each of the two branches there are differences of opinion, an instance such as occurred between the legislative and judicial branches, that is, between the Council of Guardians and the judicial branch, concerning the retribution law. Each side thought that it had acted in accordance with the legal procedures, which created friction and disharmony. Such instances occur between the executive and judicial branches, the executive and legislative branches, or the legislative and judicial branches. When such a difference occurs, an authority is required to resolve the problem. In other words, to arbitrate decisively between these two branches whose relationship has been disrupted and that decisive role belongs to the president.

Hence, this is what is meant by regulating the relationships between the three branches. Of course, it does not mean that any of the three branches have deviated from their lawful duties; disruptions may occasionally result from such cases. However, what we can mostly assume is that those cases when there are disruptions in the relations between two branches, while they are within the limits of the law and the framework of their legal duties but there are mistakes in the concepts or their actions, in such cases, an authority must arbitrate.

Another responsibility of the president is to head the executive branch. Considering that this is one of his duties, the position of head of the executive branch is not a ceremonial position but an actual one. One of its distinguishing features is the

appointment of the prime minister and the head of the Cabinet, since the president introduces the prime minister to the Majlis. Another feature is his involvement in appointing the ministers. In other words, when they are proposed by the prime minister, the president approves them. Another example is that, as the head of the executive branch, the president has the right to question the actions of the ministries, the executive branch and various organizations of the executive branch. In the event that he feels that there have been violations or delays, he can pursue and question them. Another point is that the ratifications of the Cabinet are studied by the president. If he determines that they are contrary to the law, he returns them to the Cabinet with verification. In this case, the Cabinet is responsible for changing the ratification in accordance with the corrections made by the president. On the whole, these are things that prove that the head of the executive branch, the president, is actual and not merely a ceremonial position.

Of course, other duties have also been mentioned for the president, including those duties which have been mentioned in the text of the oath of the president. One of these is to protect the religion, the regime of the Islamic Republic, and the Constitution. Another is to support the liberties, the respect for individuals, and the rights of the nation. Also, the protection of the borders and political, economic, and cultural independence and other similar issues. Therefore, as can be seen, the president, alongside the legislative branch, which is responsible for legislation; the judicial branch, which has its special duties; and the Cabinet, all of whose members, including the prime ministers and ministers, have their particular duties, is an institution and a basis of the regime, who has his own duties. These duties are among the most important and essential duties in the regime of the Islamic Republic. Of course, as I pointed out earlier, these duties are separate from those of the administration of the Cabinet and the executive organizations. In some countries, these two are the same, that is, the president has both these duties as well as the administration of the government and the executive branch, such as many places where the president plays such a role and is also at the head of the Cabinet. This is not the case here, and those executive and practical duties in various sectors in the ministries belong to the prime minister and the ministers. However, the general responsibilities belong to the president.

The Success Rate of the President

Question: Mr President, considering the vast range of responsibilities of the president in the Islamic Republic, how does Your Honor evaluate your success in the areas mentioned?

[Answer] In brief, I must sum up by saying that considering the conditions and situations which have governed our country and still exist, especially the conditions during the first year or two of my office, that is, from the middle of the period 21 March 1981-20 March 1982 to the end of the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983, I must say that, thank God, with the help of brothers and colleagues that we have had on the government level and the level of the three branches, as well as colleagues that we have had in our own office, some successes have been achieved.

The first problem that we faced was the appointment of a prime minister and the government. As you know, in those early days, we were in a difficult situation. Personally, I was very ill and suffering constant pain (in addition to the discomfort and weakness which has resulted from the incident which happened to me). In that situation, we began to work and with the help of some of the brothers, we searched for individuals on whom we could confer the responsibilities of prime minister. Fortunately, very soon I encountered Engineer Musavi, spoke with him, and he expressed his readiness. Later, I consulted with some of our other brothers. In those days, there were some general issues on everyone's mind concerning the duties and the characteristics of a prime minister. After the search and discussions in this area, I introduced him to the Majlis and, thank God, he received the vote of confidence from the Majlis. Concerning the ministers, I had an idea at the time, upon which we acted. Because of various incidents since the beginning of the revolution, the ministerial posts had changed frequently and, in the course of some two years, several ministers had been changed in most of the ministries, which had created an unstable situation--particularly with the frequent changes which had occurred recently (the changes in the Cabinet of martyr Raja'i and those in the Cabinet of Mr Mahdavi-Kani)--I believed that in order to prevent a sense of instability and worry on the part of the people, we should present the officials of the same Cabinet of Mr Mahdavi-Kani to the Majlis, without changing any of them. We did so and all of them were given votes of confidence by the Majlis, and the government began its work. Of course, later on as well, we had very few problems in the change of ministers. Generally, our method is that a minister is required for every ministry. Engineer Musavi proposes several people to me and I select one of them who, in my opinion, meets the requirements. In other words, I accept his suggestion about them and if there is a person who does not meet the requirement in my opinion and I am unable to give him the responsibility from a religious point of view, I ask him to propose other people and he does so. Thus far, the minister has usually been introduced to the Majlis in the process of introduction, acceptance and endorsement. In regards to duties concerning the relations between the three branches, I must say that we have not had many problems, because,

fortunately, the heads of the three branches have been of like opinions and not many problems have come up in connection with the three branches. If in some case there have been problems, they have been resolved through discussions and negotiations. Another point I must mention is that the duties of the president, despite his heavy duties as well as the authority and resources provided him by the Constitution, are not clearly defined by law. In other words, although the Constitution states that the protection of the Constitution, the prevention from violating the Constitution, is the responsibility of the president, the procedures for this action require a law which has not yet been devised. In other words, if, for instance, someone violates the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, it is not clear what the president should do, even if this person is in the executive branch, that is, if he is among those who work directly under the president. For instance, if a minister violates the Constitution, what must the president do? Must he send him a written warning or reprimand? What force must he use to prevent this action? Is the judicial branch responsible to act upon the warning of the president? What role do the law enforcement agencies have in this regard? If in certain instances something seems contrary to the Constitution to the president but not to the concerned minister, what must be done? Who is the authority? There are many such problems, none of which are legally clarified. In other words, the legal channels for carrying out these duties of the president have not been determined. This should have been done a long time ago and it has been postponed due to the amount of work that all the officials of the country have had. Of course, we prepared a proposal some time ago and, with the signature of some of the representatives, presented it to the Majlis which determines the duties and authority of the president in all essential areas and major legal responsibilities. If that proposal is discussed and ratified in the Majlis, then there will be a clear procedure in connection with the president and other officials of the country. However, at present, despite the many proper expectations of the people of the president and their raising all the problems of the country, there is no legal way for the president to respond to the people's problems. The truth is that the people expect the president to be present on all scenes and areas in the country and to intervene, because, as I said, they have elected him and value this election. That is why complaints are sent to us. People come to us and letters, telegrams, and telephone calls flood our office every day. This is not only in the executive branch, they also speak to us about problems in the judicial branch. They raise the issues about the army, the Guards Corps, and the revolutionary institutions and ask the president to resolve the problems. Because the president is elected by the people and he is the head of the executive branch, he rightly finds it his duty to respond to their requests. To a great extent, we try and we succeed. But these efforts result from an

understanding with the officials, not through a clear legal channel. In other words, there is no law according to which we are able to follow up the people's requests and expectations and to resolve their problems. Yes, in this regard, the officials of the country fully agree with us and many of the officials are my good and faithful friends and brothers. That is why we are able to serve the people in their affairs with relative ease, otherwise, there is no legal method here.

Evaluation of the Work of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches

Question: As the regulator of the relations between the three--legislative, executive, and judicial--branches, how do you evaluate the progress and work of these three branches in the course of the three years of your presidency?

Answer: There is no doubt that today in qualitative terms, everything is more advanced and better than at the beginning of this office. We have made much progress in terms of issues concerning both the executive branch in various areas, including the economic, political, cultural, and military sectors, and in the legislative branch. Today, the legislative branch, in terms of maturity, experience, and the familiarity of the representatives of the people in the Majlis with various issues of the country and various global issues is much more advanced than the Majlis of the period 21 March 1981-20 March 1982. Of course, I must say that, fortunately, the institution of the Majlis, in spite of the existence of some unsavory characters among the representatives, was from the beginning a mature and alert institution, which is indicated in the ratification of the Majlis during those days, including the ratification of the proposal concerning Bani-Sadr's incompetence, which is something extraordinarily great, historical, and exceptional. The Majlis, at that time, was a Majlis able to appoint the late Raja'i as prime minister, despite the opposition of all the deviant lines, to help him advance the affairs of the country to some extent, despite all the problems. But at the same time, the Majlis is more experienced and more mature now and its work is more organized than at that time. The Majlis committees have become more aware of and familiar with the issues. The judicial branch has also had some success during this period. They have trained a number of magistrates in some places and have given many laws to the Majlis for ratification. On the whole, we cannot compare the affairs of the country today with those of three years ago. In other words, it is much better and much more advanced.

In terms of the condition of the military and law enforcement forces, obviously, we have made much progress compared to the first day of my office. Therefore, on the whole, I can respond to your question that all the three branches have made

significant progress. What is important is that during this period, the true institutions of the Islamic Republic have become established and stabilized. In other words, the duties of the government and the judicial branch are clear. There is less interference in each other's affairs or in certain cases there are none at all. The task of the revolutionary institutions is clear and their duties are separate. I remember when a few months into my office, in spite of illness and physical weakness as a result of that incident and the great deal of round-the-clock efforts, several of the leaders of the counties were our guests and one of them, who in the early days of the regime of the Islamic Republic had perhaps traveled to Iran twice, said, this is the first time that I feel your country has a president, a government, ministers, and separate cooperative and harmonious organizations and I see this situation in your country for the first time. This was sent to me perhaps no more than seven or eight months into any office. And this was a fact. In those days, thank God, we succeeded in establishing and stabilizing each one of the various institutions of the country in their own place, regulating their relations, preventing one organization from interfering in the work of another, and making everyone realize their legal responsibilities. This was part of the progress that, thank God, has occurred and we have advanced in the same way until today.

The Issue of Cultural, Political, and Economic Independence of the Country

Question: As the president, you are responsible for the protection of the cultural, political, and economic independence of the country. Please tell us your views concerning the progress made in this area during the three years of your presidency.

Answer: The issue of approaching cultural independence is one issue and cultural flourishing and progress another. In regards to cultural independence, I must say that in the course of these three years, and on the whole, in the course of the five and a half years since the revolution, we have made good progress. In other words, in the previous regime, our culture was severed from its origins and tied with foreign cultures, but today, in contrast, it is a culture connected with its origins and is avoiding foreign cultures. Today, this is the situation throughout the country. Hence, we have approached cultural independence and we hope that we come even closer. Our universities at that time were 100 percent repeaters of the education and even books which were given to them from abroad. The headquarters for cultural revolution has been able to offer some amount of new work in the course of this period, even though there are still more translations than authored works and the authored works rely on the knowledge of others. However, in

terms of innovations and composition, they are new and show independence. /Therefore, in regards to cultural independence, we are not very much behind and I feel that we are not in a bad situation. But in regards to the other area, which is cultural growth, I am not happy with what has happened to us in these few years/ [in boldface]. We have been negligent of the most essential work in the country, that is, cultural issues, to a great extent. Neither our universities and education nor our cultural institutions have had the necessary jolt and have not made the necessary progress, even though a number of the young people and revolutionary individuals have made some effort in various cultural and artistic areas and have shown some growth which must be appreciated, and in certain cases even praised. But when we look at the totality of the cultural movement in the country, I feel that we have not made cultural progress in keeping with the needs of the revolution and we have not been able to attain such progress proportionate with the fruits of the revolution. The revolution creates a great, encompassing movement which we observe in many sectors of the country. But in the cultural areas, we have not progressed well as we should and as is necessary.

In the political and economic areas, our program is significant. Of course, by economic progress I do not mean that we have no economic problems or that now our people are free of economic problems such as poverty, food shortages, housing shortages and the like. No, we are, as before, engaged in a very difficult long-term struggle against these problems and we must be so. But what I mean is that in the course of this period, as a group which has been responsible for the administration of the country, we have recognized the economic problems one after another. We have advanced. We have been able to recognize the false policies of the past gradually, to understand these weaknesses, and to change them and even, in certain cases, to totally change our ways and find new ways. The planning and thinking organizations of various economic sectors have been able to find new ways. I mean that an economic recovery which must result in a revitalization of the economy has begun and we hope we are able to identify correct economic policies and pursue them in order to attain, God willing, better results.

This is also true of political issues. We have made much progress in both domestic policy and in global and international policy. Today, in the administration of the country's domestic issues, as was mentioned earlier, the competence and experience of the organizations and their knowledge and good decision making cannot be compared to three years ago. We have been able to benefit from many experiences. In regards to foreign policy, our presence on the international scene is active and, as the result of the generous and vast efforts of our brothers, fortunately, we are being recognized at a global level as an effective government

which is at present active, effective, and vital on all scenes. These are all our political advancements.

The Work of the Supreme Council for Defense

Question: Mr president, in addition to being president, you are head of the Supreme Council for Defense. Please tell us the work of this Council, especially your role in this Council in the course of these three years.

[Answer] The Supreme Council for Defense has been one of the most active organizations of this country in the course of this period. In the Supreme Council for Defense, most of the issues concerning the war were constantly raised and with the tight, effective makeup of this Council, it can have an effective presence in all the defense issues of the country, which takes a great part of the resources of the country and has existed constantly during the course of these three years. As you know, in the Supreme Council for Defense, in addition to the president, the prime minister, the representatives of the imam, the minister of defense, the joint chief of staff, and the general commander of the Guards Corps are also present. With the agreement of these brothers, we brought into the Supreme Council for Defense other members, who do not have a vote, as consultants in order to know their views and to create unity. They include the foreign minister, the minister of the Guards Corps, and a representative of the defense committee of the Majlis. With this makeup, the Supreme Council for Defense has been considered an active, effective and strong group in which the defense policies were discussed. Of course, my role as the head of the Supreme Council for Defense is an effective one, but there are other brothers in the Council who also play a role, such as the representative of the imam. During these times, the representative of the imam is a person such as Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is also the head of the legislative branch, which gives him a stronger presence and a more distinguished role.

Question: As the head of the executive branch and regulator of relations between the three branches, you have had numerous sessions with the heads of the legislative and judicial branches concerning the current issues of the country, including economic issues. On the whole, to what extent have the results of these sessions been put into practice?

[Answer] We have two kinds of sessions with these brothers. One is with the heads of the three branches, which have been held on the average of once a week. In these sessions, the general issues of the country which do not concern special branches or general policy issues of the country are examined. Of course, I must add that generally the prime minister is also present in these sessions and the general policies of the country and issues

related to them are studied, examined, and decided upon. The decisions are generally implemented; in fact, there may have been no instance in which a decision has been made in these sessions which has not been implemented.

Another kind of session which we have with the brothers is miscellaneous in nature. For instance, I might possibly have several sessions with each of the brothers mentioned every week, mostly with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. We might have five sessions per week concerning various issues with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. One time it may involve the heads of the three branches, one time the sessions of the party, one time sessions on military issues, one time sessions concerning economic decisions, in which others participate. Or, with Mr Musavi-Ardabili, we might have other meetings every week. With Engineer Musavi, we have meetings on various issues and exchange views and frequent visits. Therefore, the sessions are repeated constantly. Whenever we have a problem, we discuss it in those joint sessions and most of the ratifications of these sessions are implemented.

Presence of the People on the Scene

Question: As the Friday imam of Tehran, tell us your opinion concerning the presence of the people on various scenes in the country in the course of your three years as president.

[Answer] /I never forget to praise the people for their strong presence on various scenes of the revolution, and in my heart I feel humble and filled with praise for the people/ [in boldface]. The truth is that in the course of these three years, I did not find the presence of the people on various social scenes suffering from weakness or disruption.

In other words, now, in the war, in the Reconstruction Crusade, in services behind the front, in the Friday prayers, and in various gatherings, the situation of the people is like it was three years ago. In the course of my term of office, it has not changed at all. I remember that late during the time of Bani-Sadr, he and many of those who thought like him believed that the people had become disappointed in the revolution and therefore were not coming to the gatherings. We told them, the people are there, you are not and do not see them. They insisted that, no, the people are not there, and after a passage of some time, they will no longer be there. Fortunately, with their departure, even if there was a little disruption in the presence of the people, it was eliminated and the people come on the scene in all areas strongly. /Only, it is our duty to preserve this presence. In other words, we must provide the means of comfort and bring the revolution closer to its material and spiritual goals, so that hope is not taken away from the people and, God forbid, they do

not suffer from despair which certainly will affect the presence of the people on the scene/ [in boldface].

The last question: Your honor has had an active and significant presence in the past three years in regards to the foreign policy of the country. For example, your recent visit to the countries which are members of the resistance front has had a determining role in the changes in the region and the world. Also, you have presented significant proposals and plans, such as the plan to expel Israel from the United Nations, the creation of an Islamic common market, and the creation of a committee to support the black people, to the leaders of the countries. Please tell us the positive effects and results of these actions in your own words.

[Answer] If I were to describe the results of the activities, actions, and efforts regarding foreign policy in detail, it would be a long chapter. Obviously, the continuous efforts which have been carried out in all aspects of foreign policy cannot be reported in a few sentences. I can only say briefly that, fortunately, to a great extent, the most valuable effect of the movement and activity in regards to foreign policy is that the position of the Islamic Republic as an active, effective political power on the international scene has been affirmed, besides the fact that our goals have, to a great extent, come close to materialization. For instance, in regards to Israel, I must say that if it were not for the efforts of the Islamic Republic against Israel, by now the shameful relations with Israel might have disappeared and Camp David would have infected most of the reactionary countries in the region like a canker. What has stood decisively against Camp David and conspiracies of that kind, I can say with courage, has been the results of the political efforts of the Islamic Republic from the beginning to now, which have been pursued and followed up.

/Our defense of Islam and speaking of Islam as a superior ideology and a progressive system on a global level has caused many countries who were not prepared to mention Islam to consider themselves Muslims and be proud to claim Islam/ [in boldface]. Our defense of the Third World countries and the oppressed nations as well as our defense of the countries on the first line of the front against South Africa have been a distinguishing issue, which has been identified throughout the world, and our presence in the nonaligned movement has been active and strong. In all areas, wherever we have taken steps and on every scene of world policy that we have entered, it has been felt that the Islamic Republic is present as an active and effective power.

That is why I can say that all our efforts in regards to foreign policy have been successful. Despite the fact that the aggressive regime of Iraq has been endorsed by the superpowers, the great world powers and the countries in the region, we have been able to bring this regime under public scrutiny on a global scale to a great extent.

CHARGES ON PURCHASE OF CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE SUITS DENIED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] Tehran--The United States' hostile policy towards the Islamic Iran has been unchanged since the victory of the revolution in early 1979 and the latest news in this connection is not surprising, IRNA said.

A Swiss national has been reportedly freed on bail by a US court to later face charges of attempting to sell 400,000 pairs of chemical protective clothing to Iran.

Regardless of the point that such a deal was to take place or not, the mere fact that an individual will go on trial in an American court for such a "violation" shows the US stance on chemical warfare in the Iraqi war against Iran.

When the Iraqi regime in a blatant violation of all international and humanitarian laws, deployed chemical weapons on a wide-scale against Iranian combatants in late February and March, the US Administration was the first to apparently condemn Iraq, and the UN followed suit.

However, documents published later revealed that the hurried reaction to the Iraqi chemical warfare was really a ploy by the US government to divert world public opinion and cover-up its supply of lethal chemicals to Baghdad, which were then used against Iran.

The case of an individual being charged with attempting to sell chemical protective suits to Iran is another show of US solidarity with Iraq.

Although responsible officials here, contacted by IRNA, had no knowledge of such an attempt, nevertheless, the prosecutor's charges are very revealing.

The fact that someone would face trial on such a charge clearly implies that the US would do everything it can to weaken the defense of Iran's Moslem forces.

It is no secret that there would be no problem to purchase chemical protective suits from the international arms market.

On the other hand, the Islamic Forces of Iran have demonstrated their ability to fight the aggressor Iraqi regime and Iran's defense against Iraq's chemical weapons was demonstrated in the Kheibar Offensive in late February which led to the capture of the oil-rich Iraqi Majnoon Islands.

The Islamic Republic rightly believes that the Iraqis will probably use chemical weapons against Iran in the future, since they, unlike Iran, have not given a positive response to the call by the UN secretary general for a halt in their use.

Iran's determination for defense of its homeland will continue, despite the complicity of its enemies to weaken the resolve.

CSO: 4600/56

STRANDED TEXTILE EXPORTS TO U.S. CAUSE CONTROVERSY

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Article by Shaheen Sehbai]

[Text]

Simple system

EPB Chairman

KARACHI, Oct 15: A leading importer of Pakistani textiles into the United States today warned that if the Government of Pakistan did not move fast to settle pending textile quota problems with the U.S. Government, 1985 may turn out to be a "year of complete chaos" for both Pakistani exporters and the U.S. importers.

"If the stranded shipments of textiles are not cleared within this year, they may eat up almost 30 to 40 per cent of 1985 quota", Vice President of Baltic Linen Company of New York, Mr Mark Lichter told "Dawn" in an interview.

"Shipments made in Category 369 alone totalling almost 3 million US dollars are stranded at US ports belonging to Baltic Linen alone," Mr Lichter said. "And we have to pay the bond charges, demurrage, interests and so many other overheads that when these shipments will come out, they would not be able to compete in the market."

Elaborating problems of US importers doing business with Pakistan, Mr Lichter said Pakistan was the only country with which there existed numerous quota problems. "Why can't you control the quota system and make it smooth and trouble free," he asked.

He disclosed that a senior representative of his company which imported mainly towels and textile made-ups worth over 12 million dollars per year from Pakistan, had explained all the problems to the Chairman of EPB, Mr Hamid D. Habib at a meeting in New York recently.

"A lot of time has been lost by your government in negotiating with our government. We also have our bureaucracy and if agreement is reached today, it may take almost 4 to 6 weeks for our shipments to be released from bonded warehouses."

"So if by December we are not able to clear the three million dollars worth of imported textiles, they will automatically spill over and will be adjusted against the 1985 quota, with the result that next year the limit in at least Category 369 will be exhausted as early as April, throwing the entire business into confusion," Mr Lichter explained.

He suggested that to streamline the quota policy administration, the EPB should think of introducing special computer-controlled methods of issuing visas so that malpractices, which he said were hurting the genuine exporters, could be eliminated.

"Your system is so simple that any one could be tempted to forge it. Quota visas are issued by just one rubber stamp which can be easily imitated. The problem is that a lots of shipments arrive in the U.S. which are apparently not recorded in EPB books."

The Baltic Linen Vice President said for Pakistan in general and his business in particular, the new Country of Origin Rules imposed by the US Government, will be beneficial. "You will not be affected as much by these rules. The Chinese are the worst affected and Hong Kong will have to pay a big price," he said.

He urged the Pakistan authorities to take up pending issues with the US Government on a firm and urgent basis so that the remaining ten weeks of this year are not wasted in bureaucratic wrangling.

He said the problems of the Pakistani exporters and importers in the US were similar and affected both adversely. "Pakistan is our lifeline as far as the towels and made-ups business is concerned and you have to ensure that once quotas are issued, the shipments are made accordingly."

Mr Lichter disclosed that his company had also sent a long representation to President Reagan and the Government of Pakistan urging the US Administration to provide Pakistan with more trade facilities.

COMMERCE MINISTRY COMMENTS ON REPORT ON STRANDED TEXTILES

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 15: A spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce has termed "tendentious and mischievous" a report appearing in a section of the Press that Pakistan textiles were stranded at US ports, says a handout.

The spokesman explained that negotiations with United Nations authorities are in progress at Washington, and Pakistan government is pursuing this issue vigorously. Cotton Textiles exports from Pakistan to USA are regulated under a bilateral agreement while the exports of synthetic textiles are governed by MFA. The US government made restraint calls on our exports in four categories on grounds of threat of market disruption: Category 334 (Cotton male coats), 335 (Cotton female coats), 350 (Cotton dressing gowns), 631 (Man-made fibre gloves). After formal consultations with USA in April this year in respect of categories 334 and 350, Pakistan government complained to the textile surveillance body of GATT at Geneva which upheld our view and recommended further consultations to avoid dislocation of the flow of trade. Accordingly, further negotiations are currently in progress at Washington. As regards category 335, Pakistan government has raised the issue with TSB after un-

ilateral restraint imposed by USA on 27th August. As regards the fourth category 631, necessary instructions have been issued to our Embassy in Washington to hold consultations.

As regards category 369 (shop towels) Pakistani exporters made shipments in excess of the quantity provide the bilateral agreement, which resulted in an Embargo. Pakistan Embassy in Washington, to whom suitable instructions have already been provided by the Ministry of Commerce, is in contact with the concerned U.S. Authorities, to get the over shipments regularised.

All these negotiations have to proceed within the legal framework of bilateral and international agreement and the Ministry of Commerce is pursuing the issue vigorously which has been raised at the highest level, bilaterally and internationally, the handout concluded.

Our Staff Reporter adds:

While denying that there were no shipments stranded at U.S. ports, the handout did not mention the fate of shipments which had arrived after the embargoes were imposed. Since they were not cleared and as, according to the Ministry, they are not stranded, it becomes a mystery as to where did they go.

COMMENTARY ON POLITICAL LEADERS' RELEASE

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 11 Oct 84 p 9

[Article by Ayaz Amir: "The Education of the Chiefs"]

[Text] The release from detention of Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Aftab Sherpao and Nasirullah Babur has inevitably caused a tidal wave of speculation to flow around the question of what this portends for the country's immediate political future. The reason lies partly in the fact that the releases are being read as a sign of a thaw and partly because newspapers, forced to live on a meagre diet, have got something to write about after a long time. But whether this enthusiasm is justified or not, there is little reason to suspend critical judgment. When did one swallow ever make a summer?

For the time being conclusions can at best be tentative. One must await a decision about the leaders detained in Sind, because of whose continued incarceration the Government has been accused of following a discriminatory policy. It also has to be seen what policy the Government frames regarding the large number of unsung political workers who are lying scattered in various jails all over the country. Unless official policy shows signs of being uniformly liberal, all one can say is that the decision to release these leaders has been taken in order to improve the regime's image (their continued detention was serving no purpose) and also because the regime has no reason to suppose that there is anything that the political leaders can do which it cannot counter or control.

He Should Know It

Air Marshal Asghar Khan for one should be familiar with this route. On a number of occasions in the last seven years he has touched the highpoints of euphoria only to find himself flung headlong into the depths of despair. In 1979 he was starry-eyed about the elections promised for November which he was convinced would be held at all costs. The ambition to reap all the glory for himself made him break ranks with the PNA. His eagerness on this score was so great that he first rejected the condition of registration imposed on the political parties only to accept it the very next day. The abrupt cancellation of the elections came as a blow to his pride and marked the beginning of his disenchantment with the regime. Given this history he can't be too careful about the Government's intentions.

Opposition to Polls

In his first remarks to the Press, Air Marshal Asghar Khan has expressed his opposition to any elections which go against accepted democratic norms. Yet he has done it in an ambivalent manner, his references to the question being so numerous as to leave the impression that his mind seems fairly set on contesting any elections that Gen. Zia calls on the basis of his August 12 proposals (to think even for a minute that any future elections will be held on any other basis is to delude oneself unforgivably).

The Air Marshal may have his own reasons for being so optimistic about the regime's election plans (I for one think he is justified in insisting that the MRD should not take a final decision on the matter before the Government shows its hand but it would be a pity if the rest of the MRD is not taken into confidence). To contemplate participation in restricted elections open, let us say, only to the so-called 'registered' parties would be a stab in the MRD's back and a repetition of the mistake the Tehrik committed in 1979 when it agreed to the registration clause knowing fully well that its sole aim was the disqualification of the defunct PPP.

The trouble is that the Tehrik is hamstrung by a political approach which at times betrays a lack of proper finesse. Besides, a certain individualistic streak has earned it a reputation for unpredictability which it must erase if it wishes to play a constructive and a bigger role in national politics.

It is as well to remember that the release of these three leaders is not a victory of the people but a gift from the regime which, as such gifts go, can easily be revoked. The foremost problem therefore is to ensure that the prerogative of freedom reverts to the people to whom it rightly belongs. This is impossible so long as the agreement of the armed forces is not obtained to a political programme which commands national consensus and so long as their compliance with such a programme is not ensured. Instead of focussing energy on this central issue it is being wasted on issues (such as that of an electoral alliance) which are not of immediate relevance. The principal reason for this state of affairs is that most of the political leaders are living in a parliamentary dream-world. When there is a small bit of relaxation on the part of the Martial Law authorities they start behaving as if Martial Law itself had disappeared. They pass loud resolutions and get their pictures printed in the papers. But this lasts only for a while. Whenever the Government has wanted to freeze the situation it has seldom found the task too difficult.

Excessive Parliamentarianism

The excessive parliamentarianism of the political leadership is also the reason why our political debate is still being conducted in terms of a rootless idealism about the things that should be done, about the desirability of holding elections, the imperative necessity of restoring democracy, etc. During the last seven years, every notable politician in Pakistan has become a Cassandra and the Oracle of Delphi solemnly warning the country of the awful fate that awaits it if his words are not heeded. It is undoubtedly

useful to reaffirm basic, even self-evident, truths but this alone cannot be the primary function of politics. After seven years of comparative retreat, the time has come when a change must be effected from the why and the wherefore of democracy to its when and how.

Heavy Responsibility

In this respect Air Marshal Asghar Khan and the other politicians who enjoy a national stature bear a heavy responsibility. As some important leaders are in exile, the eyes of the people are turned towards them to give voice and shape to national aspirations and to chart a course which safely sees the ship of State out of stormy seas. But if anyone thinks it is easy to prove equal to this task, he should pay heed to Neruda's words about what it takes to be a chieftain:

He studied to be a hurricane wind.
He fought himself until his blood was extinguished.
Only then was he worthy of his people.

CSO: 4600/52

SIND'S ALIENATION, OTHER PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 11 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Groundsman: "Sind's Travail"]

[Text] Some days ago a Lahore contemporary published an interview with Dr. Hamida Khuhro regarding the state of affairs in Sind. It deserves more than casual notice by both Authority and the public.

By Dr. Khuhro's account, the situation in Sind is quite disturbing, to use the mildest possible expression. According to her, the Hurs recruited to fight highwaymen have themselves become dacoits--as had been predicted when this bizarre scheme was first mooted. Since the movement of 1983, says Dr. Khuhro, the law and order agencies have ceased to inspire awe and law-breakers are becoming more and more daring. In rural areas, people are afraid of keeping shops open around dusk or of driving along the highways at night. Daylight abductions for ransom have become common. Proliferation of weapons has reached alarming levels. In one tribal feud rocket launchers are reported to have been used. The Afghan refugees are believed to be openly hawking arms and narcotics. Police stations are being auctioned, the police are conniving with violators of the law, the rat race has destroyed the social fabric, and the unemployed youth are trying to get rich regardless of means.

Exaggeration

It is possible that Dr. Khuhro tends to exaggerate or generalise some incidents into a province-wide pattern. Perhaps, the provincial administration could challenge her evidence or even some of her conclusions. One would certainly be relieved if it could make its rejoinders a little more convincing than the 'all well' handouts usually are. However, Dr. Hamida Khuhro's statement is corroborated to a considerable extent by what one reads in the Press--and reports of much more that is not printed but must be known to the administration. If the situation in Sind is even a quarter as bad as this evidence indicates, it is time some unorthodox remedies were found, because the traditional medicine is obviously not proving efficacious. In particular, a thorough probe must be carried out with a view to answering the allegation, however unfounded it may seem, that the police are colluding with the law-breakers in order to destroy the traditional social order.

The central issue that must be faced honestly and squarely is whether the happenings in Sind constitute merely a law and order problem and could be disposed of as such. These days conscious communities do not treat even simple crime of any category as just a law-and-order matter. Instead they strive to trace crime to its social roots. History tells us of many a society which paid dearly for its failure to draw the right conclusions from widespread trends towards lawlessness. Fortunately, in case of Sind the difference between official and public assessments of the situation is confined largely to the magnitude of the breakdown of order rather than its possible causes. It is the lack of evidence to deal with these causes that breeds uneasiness.

Deprivation

Some months ago, everybody in the country was talking about the Sindhi people's feeling of deprivation. What has been done, or is being done, to convince the people of Sind of the queer thesis that they are less deprived than they feel or that they should suffer their lot as quietly as people in other regions do? Has the Hari been convinced that his plight has ended or that the process of land-grabbing is over? Has normalcy been restored on the campuses and a solution to the frustration of the Sindhi educated youth found? Has something been done to respect and accommodate Sind's literary and cultural resurgence--apart from a spurious 'same-lan' of intellectuals held some time ago? Are the police 'conniving' and collaborating with 'dacoits' because of failure of discipline or are there other factors that have landed them in a crisis of loyalty? What is being done to make sure that some youth are not driven into the jungle by the harassment of the police or by society's failure to provide them means of normal, gainful existence? If disgruntled 'waderas' or discredited politicians are stoking up fires of unrest, have the primary causes of discontent been adequately identified? Could it be that Sind has developed a grievance against other parts of the country on the ground that they are too busy wallowing in remittance-wealth and other means of affluence to bother about its economic plight and injured pride?

Price of Drift

One might not have worried over-much about today's Sind if one could forget yesterday's NWFP and Baluchistan--the consequences of Qaiyum Khan's misdeeds in the name of law and order and all that was done, to a much greater extent, to Baluchistan under cover of equally dangerous cliches. If the people in other provinces do not feel concerned over whatever is troubling Sind, then they will only be remembered as the worst possible students of history and totally inept practitioners of the art of positive politics. Years of drift have already strained the federal links to a dangerous point and Sind can be allowed to sulk alone only at the risk of imperilling the all-too-important task of forging a Pakistani nation.

The administration must certainly continue to fulfil its duty to quell lawlessness but we sincerely wish that earnest efforts begin to speak to the alienated sections of the Sindhi society in a language of love and respect. And if no such dialogue is possible in the absence of people's freely chosen representatives, then let us proceed with the election of these representatives without any delay.

LETTER WRITER ASSAILS 'MULLAH' ATTITUDE TO KNOWLEDGE

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 11 Oct 84 p 4

[Letter to the editor by Ibn-i-Khalid, Lahore: "Ban No Solution"]

[Text] In Pakistan, 80 per cent of the people are illiterate and of the literate, how many can afford to subscribe to journals, local or foreign? I think not more than a few per thousand. I write these lines in view of a recent ban on a number of books and magazines which include my favourite monthly magazine THE REVIEW OF RELIGIONS, which is published from London in many languages and to which I have been a regular subscriber and a keen reader for the last one decade. Now a news item tells us that its latest issue has been banned by the Government. Well, no one can question the State's right to ban such publications as come under the definition of 'pornography' or which adversely affect the moral fabric of society, but to ban a serious and sober religious magazine of international repute whose micro-films are carefully preserved and supplied on demand by the universities of the advanced world, is simply deplorable.

Of late, it has been noticed that with each passing day, our semi-literate, insensitive and uncouth orthodox 'mullah' is increasingly gaining almost dictating powers in religious-turned political affairs and problems and these lateral entrants into our body-politic, in fact, know nothing of the new trends in the thinking of the modern and scientific man of the advanced world. Because they lack the ability to comprehend the ever-increasing challenges of the modern age, they readily call anything un-Islamic which clashes with their age-old, out of date dogmas, beliefs and superstitions. It is now a routine practice with out 'ulema' to demand a ban on this or that book or magazine not conforming to their particular point of view. They start a planned campaign in the Urdu Press and within a few days, using all pressure tactics, they generally succeed in forcing the Government department concerned to issue an order banning the publication of the book or magazine they don't like.

I feel such a policy or attitude is, in fact, a confession on the part of our religion-monopolists that they have no answers to the questions or criticism arising out of the unsatisfied intellectual curiosity of modern man and thus their lethargic attitude shows as if Islam cannot answer objections against it. I wish such a defeatist, apologetic policy were

changed forthwith and replaced with a bold, realistic energetic and intellectually aggressive approach. A simple ban is no solution to this problem. All such publications which don't conform to our point of view must be confronted at intellectual level with all the emphasis on rationalism in Islam.

It is, therefore, requested that every demand from our 'ulema' to ban this or that book should not be entertained so that we may not become a laughing stock in the eyes of the advanced world.

CSO: 4600/52

SHOORA CHAIRMAN ON MODE OF ELECTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 15 Oct 84 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 14: Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, Chairman, Majlis-i-Shoora, said here on Sunday he believed that the next elections would evoke an enthusiastic response from elements belonging to all parties.

Talking to newsmen at Qasre Naz, he said the mode of elections were a secondary matter. What was more important was that elections must be held.

His assessment was that the elections would be held between the first week of February and the middle of March next.

Khwaja Safdar, before leaving for Jakarta at the head of a nine-member Shoora delegation said that he was carrying a message of President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq for the Indonesian President, General Suharto.

The delegation, invited by the

speaker of the Indonesian Parliament, would visit places of historical and cultural importance and also assess the parliamentary system of Indonesia, he said. He was confident that the visit would further cement the mutual ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation includes Qazi Mohammad Nauroze of Abbotabad, Mian Abdur Rauf of Sheikhpura, Chaudhry Ghulam Haider Wyne of Mian Chunnoo,

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani of Multan, Sardar Mir Chakar Khan Domki of Baluchistan, Mir Rasul Bux Talpur of Tando Mohammad Khan and Mr Azad bin Haider of Karachi, besides the Joint Secretary of Majlis-i-Shoora.

—APP

CSO: 4600/47

REVIVAL OF COOPERATION WITH IRAN, TURKEY LAUDED

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 18 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Regional Economic Cooperation"]

[Text] Before Pakistan became a reality, Hindu leaders of India, especially Mr. Gandhi, felt that an independent Muslim entity within the sub-continent may eventually engineer a spectre of political power extending from Lahore to Constantinople (Istanbul), which might not be too healthy for an ambitious Hindu nation existing close at hand. That was probably because of the power of sentiment they had seen in action during the Khilafat movement that concerned directly with the Ottoman Empire. There was this continuous chain of Muslim nations for hundreds of years past, but there was no Islamic compact at that time, and an inspirational desire to get together. But during the previous two centuries, the emergence of the common foe of the imperialist-colonialists, the resurgence was quite likely. At least among the common people of the countries, it was always there and is present even now. But, administrative leadership of the nations involved is a different force altogether. Pakistan's emergence did insinuate a new spirit into the ideal, and even in its initial weakness, it contributed to the efforts of Iran to get rid of the economic yoke of Western imperialism. Things, however, simmered down the moment power was seized by interests other than those who had a foundation in the public mind. Another 13 years passed when the idea was once again broached and the RCD came into being. When it did, however, all the members were tied to treaties with the imperialist powers so that they could not even find any loopholes to increase their mutual trade. Among the here was much enthusiasm, as it was believed that old dreams were a come true. There were so many bottlenecks to be cleared and few of were even tackled. A number of plans of joint ventures were put forward but few of them could be implemented.

In 1975, the case of the RCD was reviewed once again and while the enormous potential was seriously appreciated, it was also put on record that the effort had failed for diverse reasons. By now, however, things had considerably altered in Iran. The Shahinshah, once so enthusiastic about the organisation, now felt it to be a burden. Turkey and Pakistan were as poor relatives considering the increase in oil prices in the international market, with which the country could buy all sorts of weapons and consumer

goods from USA or Europe. At that time, American international affairs experts arrived in shoals in order to sell the idea of a new RCD in which Hindu India could be taken in as a partner. This very suggestion was anathema to Pakistanis at least and they received it quite coldly. Actually it was another way of discouraging any cooperation between Muslim states. The Shahinshah had turned into a stooge of the American and Israeli Jews. In 1979 when the monarchy was overthrown in Iran, one could have expected a better treatment of the idea by the Revolutionary Iran. But it was probably too suspicious of all old arrangements worked out during the regime of the Shah, and it simply asked the whole thing to be scrapped.

Lately, however, Iran has once again come alive to the basic idea, sound as it was but driven into holes due to so many external alien influences. The matter this time through the positive approach to it by a new Turkish administration. Prime Minister Torgut Ozal who had been at one time associated with the RCD as an official, told the press that he was keen about it since he knew the difficulties which were experienced at one time in working the projects. But, he said the first thing to be considered and put into action was a greater trade among the three countries, and the overcoming of the toughest bottlenecks which made it difficult. One of these was that of transport. There is no regular shipping line working between the two countries, nor was the land route ready to take the load. He had come to Pakistan with a high-powered delegation of businessmen to study at first hand the commodities in which a brisk trade between Pakistan and Turkey, and several proposals were pinned down. He pleaded for a balance in the terms of commerce which was not there. In 1974-75 Turkey had imported goods worth only Rs. 6 million while it exported commodities valued at Rs. 21 million. The volume has since risen to Rs. 66 million and Rs. 306 million respectively, the imbalance being still there. Iran is, however, a different matter. Trade between Pakistan and Iran has been considerable and has grown further since its war with Iraq. In 1983-84, Pakistan exported commodities worth Rs. 4,642 million and imported to the tune of Rs. 1,039 million, again with a glaring imbalance. The reason for this greater trade with Iran is, obviously, the use of the land route via Zahidan. If the gaps between the road and rail links, which are very short, indeed could be filled up, and a proper uniform gauge could be introduced, there is the chance of a bright exchange. Joint ventures and investments by one country in another would automatically follow. The Regional Economic Cooperation, a new name for RCD would be a dream of the peoples of the three countries come true, provided it is worked out with real enthusiasm and not allowed to be sabotaged by a short-sighted bureaucracy which only plans through alien advice.

CSO: 4600/52

COUNTRY'S OPTIONS IN FACE OF 'FOREIGN PRESSURES' ANALYZED

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Ahsan Ali Khan]

[Text]

BY ALL indications Pakistan is under multifarious external pressures. Even in friendly America certain circles of politicians and media are exerting a subtle type of pressure at a time when about 14000 Afghan-Soviet troops stand mobilised right on our north-western borders, the Afghan aircraft have frequently bombed our border areas with impunity and India has added six more infantry divisions (ostensibly to suppress the Sikhs in East Punjab) to the bulk of its army already deployed on Pakistan's eastern frontier.

The American pressure is subtle, because it is not expressly or openly official nor are its objectives clear. It will be, therefore, worth our while to read its nature and objectives between the lines.

The pressure originated from opposition benches in the U.S. Senate. It began with Senator Cranston's speech on June 25. He alleged that Pakistan was trying to make nuclear weapons and exhorted India and Israel to launch a pre-emptive attack against Pakistan. It was followed by his write-up, published on Aug 17 in the "Washington Post", charging Pakistan of having acquired the

capability to produce nuclear weapons and, on that count, urging the U.S. Administration to suspend further sale of F-16s to Pakistan.

US polls campaign

Political circles in Pakistan were surprised at the sudden revival of propaganda campaign against the so-called "Muslim Bomb" of Pakistan. An obvious explanation could be that the democrats had resurrected the bogey of the Muslim Bomb for using it as a stick to beat President Reagan with during the current election campaign. But it was not as simple as that. There was something more to it.

ABC-TV, the United States' second largest network, reported on Sept 13, that the US Senate had been alerted by administration and intelligence experts to the possibility of a pre-emptive strike by India against Pakistan's nuclear facilities. Although the US State Department ruled out the possibility of a conflict between India and Pakistan and President Zia-ul-Haq tried to strike a reassuring note, the Press in Pakistan took a serious view of the report. Some people wondered why the reports of a possible Indian strike against Pakistan's nuclear installations emanated only from Washington. They recalled US Ambassador Dean Hinton's statement that a major source of discord needed to be rooted out in order to secure durable Pakistan-US friendship.

What is that source of discord? Is it Pakistan's policy of not leasing bases to foreign powers? It was reported by a national Urdu daily on Oct 4 that recently Pakistan had turned down an American proposal to allow the use of its territory and bases for exercises of America's Rapid Deployment Force. This report has not been denied so far by any official quarter in Pakistan or in the United States.

Security ties

Another significant manifestation of American pressure was Senator Cranston's amendment, discussed and ruled out of order in the U.S. Senate on Oct 3, to a 1985 spending Bill. The amendment would have prohibited future military aid to Pakistan if it violated assurances that it would not develop a nuclear explosive device or produce highly enriched uranium, a component necessary for nuclear explosions. More significant than Senator Cranston's amendment were the speeches opposing the amendment. The hub of these speeches was that a vote for the amendment would be "a vote against the Afghan freedom fighters and a vote for their Soviet oppressors".

This tone was set by no less a person than Secretary of State George Shultz himself who, in his letters to the majority and minority leaders in the Senate, had underlined "the importance of maintaining a strong security relationship with Pakistan, a relationship essential to countering Soviet adventurism in South Asia and Soviet brutality in Afghanistan."

The amendment was ruled out of order and Cranston quietly accepted the ruling, making no attempt to question it; but he served the purpose of acting as a catalyst to convey the message to Pakistan that it was getting military assistance primarily because of Afghanistan and that it should play a more active part than hitherto to help the Afghan guerillas intensify their resistance. Further, the Soviets too were indirectly (and inadvertently?) told that there was

no substance in Pakistan's denial of the allegation that it was helping the Afghan guerillas.

During the Senate debate, Senator McClure said in the context of Pakistan's delicate security situation that it had two options: first, "security relationship with the United States", and the second, if it cannot depend upon that, "it will be greatly impelled towards a nuclear programme."

Danger signals

As the nuclear option is fraught with deadly dangers (e.g. India's pre-emptive attack), our American friends would like us to opt for a security relationship with the United States. But we already have a sort of security relationship under the agreement of 1959. That probably is not considered enough. It seems our American friends are trying to shatter our nerves by magnifying danger signals to make Pakistan completely fall in line with their policies in South Asia and the Middle East in order to strengthen the US bargaining position vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. There are portents that during his second term President Reagan would like to initiate a "serious dialogue" with the other superpower on all major issues, including "regional conflicts". Thus, there is a likelihood that the fate of Afghanistan and Pakistan may be decided without their participation in a Yalta-type conference.

But Pakistan has a third option also and it is to mend fences with the Soviet Union, enter into direct negotiations with Afghanistan and pursue more vigorously the goal of establishing a durable peaceful relationship with India.

In view of mounting pressures from our friends and foes alike, it appears that Pakistan will have to adopt one of the above-mentioned options earlier than later. Since on this option will depend Pakistan's future and it will be a matter of life and death for our people, its adoption should be decided in consultation with the defunct political parties and leaders of public opinion in the country.

MINISTER CHARGES 'CONSPIRACY TO DAMAGE IMAGE OF ULEMA'

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 84 p 10

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Oct 19: The Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Religious Affairs, Raja Mohammed Zafarul Haq has called upon the Ulema to forge unity in their ranks and guard against the forces opposed to the resurgence of Islam in general and the process of Islamisation in Pakistan in particular.

Addressing the Ulema representing different schools of thought here on Friday morning, Raja Zafarul Haq said that a special responsibility devolved upon the Ulema to counter the onslaughts of these forces, being made on scientific lines.

He reminded them that these forces had singled out Ulema to highlight their mutual differences, with a view to demolishing their image in the eyes of the public. The Ulema were being presented as an isolated class of society and frivolous differences were being incited in them, in a calculated and scientific manner, to harm the process of Islamisation in the country. He noted that differences existed in other classes of society, such as doctors, engineers etc., but no one talked about them. The Ulema's differences were being magnified

out of proportion only to impede the enforcement of Islamic order in the country.

Raja Zafarul Haq, however, lauded the courage and determination of the Ulema for withstanding such onslaughts from divisive and inimical forces and expressed confidence that their image would further improve with the passage of time.

Identifying these forces as those who were opposed to Islam, who had malice and animosity towards Islam, and who were scared of the resurgence of Islam as a third force at the international level, he said, these elements had started indulging in intrigues when Pakistan initiated the process of Islamisation.

He said that the present government had given due respect and high status to the Ulema because the President, Gen. Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq held them in high esteem.

Referring to various points raised by the Ulema in their speeches, Raja Mohammed Zafarul Haq said that television programmes had been weeded out of programmes and advertisements, which ran counter to Islamic values. The

government, he said, did not mind the remarks of a certain microscopic section of society, describing television as a "religious madrassah", as a predominant majority of the people of Pakistan had liked the Islam-oriented programmes of the PTV. These programmes were being liked even in occupied Kashmir and India, where the TV signals reach. Those who were averse to the reorientation of the TV programmes, were in fact opposed to Islam.

Imam-i-Kaaba

Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq also called on the visiting Imam-i-Kaaba Sharif, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Ali Subayyal.

He discussed with the Imam, matters of mutual interests besides the arrangements of Haj and related matters.

He paid tributes to the Government of Saudi Arabia for accommodating a large number of Hujjaj from all over the world. He also thanked the Imam-i-Kaaba for sparing his tie to visit Pakistan. — PPI/APP.

CSO: 4600/49

SIND TO AWARD CERTIFICATES TO LANDLORDS FOR HELPING POLICE

Karachi DAWN in English 15 Oct 84 p 2

[Text]

HYDERABAD, Oct 14: The Provincial Government has decided to award certificates to influential Zamindars in recognition of the cooperation they extended to the police in maintaining law and order and eliminating gangsters.

This was stated by S.S.P. Hyderabad Mr. Mohammed Bachal Sangri on Saturday. He told pressmen that he had recommended to the Provincial Government to award some Zamindars who had helped the police in their recent operations in Hala Sub-Division. The SSP claimed that police-public confidence and trust had been revived to a great extent and the law and order situation had improved and no major offence had taken place in Hyderabad during the last three months.

Enumerating the measures taken by him, he said, that check posts along the highways had been reinforced and the Jawans were be-

ing given tough training. He said that round the clock highway patrolling, and also along protective bunds had produced desired results. The proclaimed five gangs of dacoits had virtually ceased their operations. He said that about a 100 hurs were helping the police in the current anti-criminal operations.

Quoting statistics, he said that preventive action under Sections 110, 109, 107 and under Sind Crime Act, was taken against about 900 persons in the recent past. He said that police also arrested some persons during the period under the Arms Act and recovered seven rifles, 33 guns, 63 pistols, 63 revolvers and 56 daggers.

Mr. Sangri said that the police in order to prevent crimes, had forwarded to the Martial Law authorities a list of some Zamindars for action against them under M.L.O.-78.

CSO: 4600/47

NEWSPAPER BODIES TO RENEW OPPOSITION TO PRESS ORDINANCE

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 15: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society and Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors joint convention held here on Monday under the chairmanship of Mr Majeed Nizami adopted a joint declaration in which it noted with satisfaction that some progress had been made in negotiations with the Federal Ministry of Information regarding the demands as contained in the joint APNS and CPNE declaration of Feb 21, 1984 and the subsequent three point action programme of August this year.

The joint convention reiterated its strong determination to oppose the Press and Publications Ordinance, and other laws that restrict Press freedom.

The convention which deliberated for over three hours over the comprehensive agenda relating to the APNS and CPNE demands also heard a detailed report from the President of the APNS and CPNE, Mr Majeed Nizami, on the negotiations held with the Government.

Mr Hameed Haroon, Secretary General of the APNS, explained in detail the broad aspects of the negotiations with the Government and the various conclusions arrived at. Mr Zia-ul-Islam Ansari, Secretary General of the CPNE, elaborated the points discussed with the Government in the meetings as related to the CPNE. The meeting also heard a detailed report on the regional Press, the periodical Press and Metropolitan "B" newspapers from Mr Mustafa Sadiq.

The convention noted that progress has been made with respect to the proposed establishment of an autonomous ABC authority, the establishment of wastage norms in newsprint consumption and the modification of audit reporting and procedures thereto.

The convention also noted that the Ministry has extended its support on the proposals for the setting up of the Press Institute of Pakistan by the APNS and the hosting of the international Islamic newspapers editors' conference by the CPNE.

The convention reiterated its strong and determined opposition to the Press and Publications Ordinance, amendments of libel laws and other laws in practice that restrict the freedom of the Press. The convention declared its determination to challenge the validity of these laws in the highest courts of the land.

This convention strongly urged upon the Government to withdraw the system of Press advice and the present ban on political reporting in the newspapers in order to enable the Press to play its rightful role in the creation of a fair and just society.

The convention urged the government to take the initiative to raise Government advertisement rates to bring them in line with the spiralling cost structures of the newspaper industry. It urged upon the Government to immediately proceed with the acceptance of the just demands of the convention by completing a review of the Government advertisement rates within 30 days of the meeting.

The convention reiterated its concern at the delay in the implementation of a cohesive Government policy with respect to the regional Press, periodical Press and the smaller Metropolitan publications. It specifically urged the Government to take necessary action for implementing the understanding reached for reserving 25 per cent of the overall Government advertisements for them.

The right of agency and clients to nominate media for Government advertisements should be recognised and preserved, provided it is ensured that 25 per cent of their total annual budget is allocated to the regional Press, the periodical Press and metropolitan "B" newspapers. A quarterly statement of advertisements released by each Government client should be made available by the PID to the APNS.

The convention also urged upon the Government to exempt all publications with a circulation of less than 5,000 copies from the

jurisdiction of the Wage Board. The convention noted that while the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appears to be sympathetic to the growing dimensions of the international newsprint crisis and its repercussions in Pakistan, immediate steps need to be taken to enable sufficient stockpiling of newsprint by the national newspaper industry and the TCP for the benefit of small publications.

The convention urged upon the Government to immediately allow long-term bulk purchases of newsprint through and annual licensing system.

The convention acknowledged the important role of the news agencies in the purveyance of news and reiterated its stand that the three news agencies namely APP, PPI and UPP should be accorded equal opportunities for their development and progress.

The convention also demanded restoration of the newsprint licence of daily Amn, Karachi. —PPI

CSO: 4600/47

TRAINS RUN LATE; 'GO SLOW' CONTINUES

Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct 15: The operational staff of the Pakistan Railways continued to adopt go-slow tactics for the 13th day running on Monday with the result that all trains were behind schedule.

The situation on the main lines is not as bad as it is on branch lines on which trains are late by four to six hours. Goods trains are the worst affected. Some of them are reaching their destination 24 hours behind schedule.

A senior engine driver told this correspondent that so far, the go-slow was confined to the track only. Further delay in the acceptance of Railway employees' demands could lead to the workshops adopting similar tactics.

The go-slow tactics by a 5000-strong operational staff group, 2000 of them being drivers, started on Oct 2 when the Railway administration deprived them of the mileage allowance and overtime which they had been drawing for over a year after the new pay scales were introduced. Not only this, the administration decided to recover the money that had been paid to their employees under these two heads last year.

Drivers, like firemen and shunters, were paid mileage allowance and overtime at the rate of one day's basic salary after every 100 miles and a similar amount af-

ter an eight-hour stint. After the revision of pay scales in 1983 both the allowances were withdrawn and slab rates for mileage allowance and overtime fixed. This resulted in a fall in the emoluments and the operational staff began to agitate. Subsequently a meeting with the General Manager was held and the administration decided to increase the rate of the mileage allowance and overtime. It was also promised that the senior staff would get higher grades.

On Oct 2, the earlier orders, awarding certain financial benefits, were withdrawn on the plea that the revised rates of mileage and overtime had no justification after the new pay scales were introduced in 1983. The administration, revoking its earlier orders, also held that the amount paid to the drivers and other operational staff since the revision of the rates for the two allowances was to be recovered from the recipients.

Another reason for the go-slow is stated to be the recent directive by the Railway authorities that trains should be run strictly according to the rules as laid down in the Railway Act of 1898 to ensure the safety of passengers and goods. According to the engine drivers, the rules are too strict to allow the trains to run on time. They maintain the condition of the rolling stock rules out

the possibility of most trains to run on schedule if the 1898 Act is followed to the letter.

A number of disciplinary actions were also taken against engine drivers. The drivers of the Shalimar Express which was derailed about a week ago and the driver who stopped his train just near another train on the same track at Akhtarabad railway station the other day have been suspended from service and inquiries against them have been instituted. Similarly, four drivers in Quetta division were punished "far in excess of their crime," their colleagues alleged.

Engine drivers are also agitating for higher grades. At present they are in pay scale No. 8 whereas most other employees who used to be on a par with them in the past have been given higher scales.

The Railway administration seems to have realised that withdrawal of mileage allowance and overtime was an error.

An administration spokesman told Dawn that "there appears to have been some misunderstanding somewhere along the line". According to him the running staff continues to draw overtime under the rules in vogue after the introduction of the basic scales of pay and their emoluments had not been reduced in any way. He hoped that since the matter had been rectified things would return to normal soon.

WORK ON MAJOR RAILROAD SECTION TO START

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 84 p 3

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct 19: Work on double railway track between Multan-Khanewal is to start very soon, and it will be completed at a total cost of Rs. 200 crore within a period of two years, Mr. Mohammad Akram Mirza, General Manager, the Pakistan Railways, told APP here on Friday.

He said that the total amount of the project involved Rs. 200 million as foreign exchange component.

He said that the feasibility report of the project covering a distance of 87 kilometres has been finally approved and the entire work will be done by the railway engineers.

To a question, he said that except rail the entire material to be used in the completion of the project would be locally made.

Regarding advantages of having a double track between Khanewal and Multan, Mr. Mohammad Akram Mirza said that the railways had smooth traffic between Multan and Karachi and the trains covered the distance between these two railway stations according to the

scheduled time. He said that the reason being that there were two ways to reach Multan from Karachi, one via D.G. Khan-Kashmore and the other Bahawalpur-Samasatta and that was why express train coming and going from Multan had been divided on these two sections.

Whereas, he said, after Multan there was only one track and Multan and Khanewal was the most busy section. Khanewal was also a main junction from where a number of trains were diverted to branch lines.

Therefore, he added, express trains got delayed on this section upsetting their entire schedule and indirectly affecting the running time of other trains.

He said with the completion of double track between Multan and Khanewal not only the railway administration would greatly help in the timely arrivals and departures of trains but greatly facilitate the travelling public.—APP

CSO: 4600/49

BRIEFS

LEADERS OUSTED FROM SIND--Lahore, Oct 15--The Sind Government has externed Rao Abdur Rashid, Secretary, MRD, Punjab, and former Punjab Minister, Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Awan from Sind for 30 days. The order of the Home Secretary, Sind was served on the two leaders by the Sind Police at Karachi and they were sent back to Lahore by PIA. The order said "the Government of Sind was satisfied that with a view to preventing Rao Abdur Rashid and Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Awan, residents of Punjab, from acting in a manner prejudicial to public safety and public order in the province of Sind, it was expedient that the two be externed from the province." [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 p 4]

PLEA TO INSTALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT--Lahore, Oct 15--A former President of the Lahore High Court Bar Association, Mr Justice (retd) Sheikh Shaukat Ali, has suggested that instead of holding general elections, the government should instal a national government headed by Khan Abdul Wali Khan and consisting of other political leaders, including Air Marshal (retd) Asghar Khan, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the Pir of Pagara and others. Mr Shaukat Ali said that the external and internal situation of the country demanded that it should be left to a national government as to when and how to hold elections. If elections were held by the present administration they would promote provincialism and sectarianism. He suggested that a national government should be formed for a three-year term to enable it to overcome the present uncertain situation confronting the country within and without. He was of the opinion that only a national government could solve the problem of Afghan refugees by recognising the Karmal regime. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 p 4]

NASRULLAH KHAN TO TOUR SIND--Hyderabad, Oct 15--Nawabzada Nazrullah Khan will undertake an extensive tour of Sind Province from Oct 22. He will begin the tour from Sukkur and later visit Shikarpur, Khairpur, Hyderabad and Karachi. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 p 4]

RICE DELEGATION TO THAILAND--Islamabad, Oct 15--A Pakistani rice delegation would visit Thailand soon to study their advanced technology in the process of production of rice and marketing system as well as the methodology exports. This was stated here today by the Federal Minister for Finance, Commerce and Economic Coordination, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while talking to a four-member Thai rice delegation which arrived here on Sunday evening on a two-day visit to the Federal Capital. The delegation is led by Mrs Oranaj Ostanada, Commercial Adviser to the Government of Thailand.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Oct 84 Business Supplement p 1]

SCHOOLS FOR REFUGEES' CHILDREN--Lahore, Oct 19--The Punjab Education Department has directed all the officers authorised to appoint new teachers in the primary schools to select at least one teacher who has passed matriculation examination with science subjects, at schools where more than one teacher was required. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 84 p 3]

EID CARDS FORFEITED--Lahore, Oct 19--The Punjab Government has proscribed Eid greeting cards containing message of Air Marshal (retd) Muhammad Asghar Khan of Tehreek-i-Istiqlal Pakistan (defunct) for having objectionable material within the meaning of the West Pakistan Press and Publications Ordinance 1963.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 20 Oct 84 p 12]

CSO: 4600/49

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